



5<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## Newsletter 12

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you all managed to stay warm during the recent cold snap!

### Netball reserves squad

On Thursday 15th February, a squad of seven Year 5/6 children competed in the Alsager Community Trust Reserve Netball Tournament. Held at Alsager School, the team played against four primary schools. After several weeks of practice, both before and after Christmas, the team stepped up to play against their first opponent: Alsager Highfields. Victory was in sight early on, with Oliver calmly securing several points and sending us into our second game with confidence. The next two games, against Cranberry Academy and Pikemere School, proved equally exciting, with quality passes and team tactics resulting in two more victories. The final game against St. Gabriel's Catholic Primary School finished the tournament wonderfully, winning the fourth game with skill, having improved their performance in each successive game. In the end, the team didn't concede at all and were crowned the overall tournament champions!

### Y3 class assembly

Y3 confidently shared their learning with the whole school and family and friends just before half term. They really did a fantastic job and have certainly learnt a great deal about the Roman invasion and settlement of Britain. Well done, Y3!



### Reception Runway Visit

The Reception children thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Runway Visitors Park. They all had chance to sit at the flight deck and pretend to be the Captain. They found out about the different jobs airport staff do. They watched as planes took off or came into land. The children loved lunchtime and the chance to enjoy their packed

lunch. A great day was had by all. The children were a credit to the school and their families.

### Trim Trail installed

You may have noticed that up on the field, adjacent to the mobile, we have had a trim trail installed. This has been entirely funded by the Friends of Excalibur; so a massive thank you to everyone who has supported any events. We know that the children will get hours of fun and activity when they use this great resource. Our sports ambassadors worked with Mr Hancock to finalise the design. We are just waiting for a couple of final details to be added before the children use this equipment. It will be added to the rota of equipment for Y2 upwards. It will also be utilised in PE sessions for all classes.

### June INSET day update

As you may know, each year we have to keep an INSET day 'floating' until we are informed by the authorities whether the school is needed for polling. We have now been informed that the school will not be needed this year.

Therefore, **school will be closed to pupils on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018** and we will open after whit half term on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June.



**FOE**

Friends of Excalibur have recently distributed 'empties please' letter and bag. The committee would like you to know that this is an ongoing project and not a 'one-off' and any funds generated will go to towards FOE funds. If you need more bags, they are available at reception.

### Staff Training

Teachers recently received training about spelling. Mrs Bailey and Mrs Kemp updated their First Aid qualification. I have attended a designated safeguarding lead update workshop; Mrs Cheadle has attended the local authority Early Years moderation briefing and Mrs Tomkinson has attended a maths network meeting with other Alsager schools.

### Y6 perform with Alsager High School

On Wednesday 28th February, our Year 6 class performed as part of Alsager School's Hot Mikado performance. Singing two songs and joining the cast for the outstanding finale, the children were a credit to themselves and to the school.

Beginning several weeks ago, Mr. Galley, music teacher at Alsager School, visited Excalibur to introduce them to the songs and to rehearse with them. Then, on Wednesday afternoon, the whole class attended a morning rehearsal at Alsager, followed by a matinee for local primary schools, including our own Year 5. They sang "Gentlemen of Japan" and "The Drums Will Roll", two challenging songs that showcased the excellent performing skills of everybody involved. Congratulations to everybody who performed, especially those who returned for the evening performance - you were outstanding.



### Academy Conversion

As you know, Excalibur has been working towards conversion to academy status and we expect to convert on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018, forming Chancery Multi Academy Trust with Pikemere school. In the day to day running of the school, as parents/carers, you probably will not notice any difference. However academy conversion, we believe, supports the school to continue to offer the best provision for future generations.

### And Finally

Apologies for any inconvenience caused by school closure last Thursday. This is not a decision which is taken lightly - in fact in my 16 years at Excalibur this is the first time it has been necessary to close due to extreme weather! The decision to close is made as quickly as is practical and obviously we don't know until we have tried to get to school. I can assure you that senior leaders set off very early in the morning to do this! Please remember that the majority of staff do not live in Alsager and it is necessary to consider conditions travelling to and from school/staffing ratios in addition to the safety of the school site.



Let's hope that is the last of the bad weather for this year and we start to see some spring sunshine!

Thank you for your continued support.

**Mrs Lise Houldsworth**     **Mrs Juliet Tomkinson**  
**Head Teacher**                      **Deputy Head Teacher**

## **Diary Dates**

6/7/8-03-18 FOE Mother's Day gift wrap
<b>07-03-18 Fire service IN to Y6</b>
08-03-18 Fire Service IN to Y5
12-03-18 Last week of clubs
14-03-18 Governors – Standards & Curriculum 5pm
16-03-18 Mid-Year report card home
16-03-18 Reception class assembly 9.15am
19-03-18 FOE non uniform day – bring an easter egg
20-03-18 Y4 & Y6 parent/teacher consultations
22/23-03-18 Y4 Standon Bowers
22-03-18 Parent/teacher consultations 4-7pm (not Y4 & Y6)
22-03-18 Y5 brass sharing – 9.10am
23-03-18 Y1 class assembly 9.15am
24-03-18 FOE Family Easter expedition 12pm – 3pm
27-03-18 Parent/teacher consultations 3.30-6pm
27-03-18 Y5 to Wesley Place
28-03-18 Full governors 5pm
28-03-18 Y2 to Staircase House – details to follow
29-03-18 Easter assembly 9.15am – juniors – details to follow
<b>29-03-18 School Closes</b>
<b>16-04-18 School Opens</b>
<b>19-04-18 Class photos (rearranged from 1<sup>st</sup> March)</b>
07-05-18 Bank holiday
14-05-18 Y6 SATS week
18-05-18 FOE school disco – details to follow
21-05-18 Sports Week
23-05-18 Governors – Resources & Personnel 5pm
<b>25-05-18 School Closes</b>