



19th March 2018

Newsletter 13

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a credit to the staff and pupils that we have so much to fill this newsletter - in only two weeks since the last one! Excalibur is such a busy, purposeful environment and our children are working very hard – we are proud of them. Keep it up everyone!



Fire Safety

Year 5 and Year 6 recently had a visit from Cheshire Fire Service to learn about staying safe. They also had a good look at the fire engine and also experienced the way in which smoke behaves in a fire in simulation in the smoke tent. Thank you to Cheshire Fire Service for providing this important opportunity for our pupils.



Sports round-up

On Thursday 8th March, a squad of ten Year 5/6 children competed in the Alsager Community Trust Dodgeball Tournament. Throughout the event, they played against the four other Alsager primary schools in five minute matches to determine the winner. After playing the sport in PE for the last few weeks, and a training session after school last week, the team were keen to test their skills against an opposition. The first game, against Pikemere, gave us a taste of what was to come, with a fantastic display of dodgeball skill and tactics, leading to a victory secured in just a few minutes. The next two matches, against Alsager Highfields and St. Gabriel's Catholic Primary School, were equally enjoyable, with all teams showing a good standard of dodgeball throughout. Winning both matches, the team had a bye, before playing against the final team, and eventual joint runners up, Cranberry Academy.

This match was more difficult, providing some nail-biting moments when defeat looked imminent. But the team struck back, securing a well-earned final victory, and the trophy for the second consecutive year!

On Thursday 15th March, fourteen children from Year 3 and 4 participated in the Alsager Community Trust hockey festival, which was held at Alsager School. During the event, the children took part in a variety of hockey skills, including shooting, passing and dribbling. They also took part in small-sided games. All of the activities were organised by sports leaders from Alsager School, who did a wonderful job throughout. Many thanks to George for helping out as one of our sports ambassadors.

Reception class assembly

Well done to our reception children who shared some of their learning with the whole school and parents/carers last week. They were super and many thanks to everyone who supported them.



Staffing updates

Mr Hancock recently attended a tennis course. All teachers spent a twilight session last week learning about the Bar Modelling method in mathematics.

As Year 5 parents/carers are already aware, Mrs Kerry Beale will be joining Excalibur on 30th April to take over from Miss McArdle whilst she is on maternity leave. I am sure that everyone will join me in making Mrs Beale feel welcome at our school and in wishing Miss McArdle and her family all the best when her new little person arrives.



Book Fair

Thanks to everyone who supported the book fair. All commission is reinvested in school; purchasing stock for our book shelves. The children often choose the books we buy for the classrooms.



Outdoor shoes

A quick reminder that children may bring in old outdoor shoes/wellies to access the field at playtimes and lunchtimes. Pupils must not use their PE footwear. This also extends to using the newly added trim trail as this is positioned up on the grass on the field.



Dementia Friendly School

As you may be aware, Alsager is working towards becoming a dementia friendly town. This is an issue close to our hearts and Excalibur would like to support this initiative in the town. Therefore, we will be working with Kath Reader and the dementia awareness team over the next few months. This will involve some staff training and then assemblies and class sessions with the children. Mrs Rogers who is co-ordinating the project will be sending out further details. Many thanks for your support.

Parent/Carer surveys

It is that time of year again where we seek parent/carers' views of the school. The surveys will be handed out during parent/teacher consultations as usual. Please return them to school before we finish for the Easter break, as they are collated and analysed during the holiday.

We really do appreciate your time in doing these surveys and they are always evaluated by staff and governors. The views feed into the strategic planning for the school; they help us to identify strengths, what is working well and what we should keep doing and also areas where we could try and improve. Over the last few years, some of the outcomes in response to parent/carers ideas have been: the additional gates and lighting to the drive; an increase in the number of extracurricular clubs; the midyear report card and parent/carers curriculum workshops.

Additionally, it would be fantastic if you could support the school by also completing the online OFSTED parentview survey after the parent/carers consultations. This would help to give more rounded, relevant and up to date information about the school. It has the same questions as our

internal survey and literally takes two minutes to complete. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Office news

From 1st April 2018, due to academy conversion, cheques need to be made payable to **Excalibur Primary School** NOT Cheshire East and NOT Excalibur School Fund. Thank you.

Please also note that we can no longer accept the old £10 notes.

Also, please ensure that you keep the office informed of any changes to your contact addresses or contact numbers. Thank you.



Science Week

Last week was science week and Mr Hancock and Miss Robinson did some experiments with the children in assembly. They looked at several experiments using balloons and static and 'magic milk' and other interesting things.

In addition, as part of our science week learning every class had the opportunity to take part in a forensic science session with a visiting scientist. A crime had been committed and the children were required to search the crime scene to find clues to help them solve the crime. They discussed what clues they might find at a crime scene to help them find out who was guilty. Working in teams, each group searched their crime scene for clues and compared the evidence that they discovered to the information they had about each of the suspects. Evidence such as fingerprints, footprints, DNA and clothes all provided clues, there were even some 'red herrings' along the way meaning the children had to decide which pieces of evidence were the key to revealing 'who did it!' Every class worked together brilliantly to solve the crime and thoroughly enjoyed taking on the role of crime scene investigators. When I chatted to the children over lunchtime, they clearly enjoyed the sessions and were full of enthusiasm.

And Finally

Thank you for your continued support.

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

Diary Dates

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
29-03-18 Easter assembly 9.15am – juniors
29-03-18 School Closes

16-04-18 School Opens
19-04-18 Class photos (rearranged from 1 st March)
20-04-18 Non uniform for winning house
25-04-18 Y3 Viking Workshop – details to follow
02-05-18 Y2-Y6 Dementia Friendly team to classes – details to follow
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
25-05-18 School Closes

06-06-18 SCHOOL OPENS
06/07-06-18 Y4 & Y5 Bikeability – details to follow
11-06-18 Y1 Phonics screening week
12/13/14-06-18 FOE Father's Day gift wrap – details to follow
13-06-18 Y5 Activity Day @ AHS – details to follow
29-06-18 FOE Summer Fair 5-7pm – details to follow
04-07-18 Governors – Standards & Curriculum 5pm
11-07-18 Full Governors 5pm
24-07-18 SCHOOL CLOSES