



4th May 2018

Newsletter 15

Dear Parents/Carers,



Y3 Viking workshop

Y3 had a wonderful 'sparkling start' to their topic last Wednesday when we were invaded by a Viking warrior! They had a great day learning all about Viking life and the topic was really brought to life through this experience. Thank you for supplying costumes for the children – it helped the day feel even more authentic!

FOE news

FOE met this week. Donna Bourne has decided to step down from the FOE coordinator role. May we take this opportunity to thank Donna for the brilliant job she has done this year. Donna will continue to support FOE, but is stepping back from the coordinator role. The views, support and attendance of any Excalibur parent/carer at FOE events is warmly welcomed.

Gail Whittingham, a parent in reception, has kindly agreed to step into the role of FOE coordinator.

We look forward to many more great events!



Y3 reading project

A group of Y3 children have taken part in a reading project over the last few months; working with Stoke City FC and pupils from other Alsager schools during visits to Alsager library. They had a fabulous afternoon last Thursday when they got the chance to visit the Bet 365 stadium. Here's what they thought:

"My favourite part was seeing the pitch because it was huge."

"I loved the football stadium but my favourite bit was the changing rooms."

"My favourite bit was seeing the trophies."

Thank you to Mrs. Bailey for accompanying the children.

Parent survey updates

A couple of updates to your feedback from the survey in March. We have discussed how we could give parents/carers more opportunity to understand their children's progress and thought we could trial the following:

- Open up classrooms and display pupil books at the October parent/teacher consultations, as we do in March.
- Offer an informal 'open drop-in' session for you to come into school and look at your children's work in their classrooms in the summer term. This year this will be on **July 16th 3.15-5.30pm**. (Please note that as staff will be in their classrooms to support this evening, we do not have the capacity to supervise pupils or their siblings.)

We hope that this will provide an extra opportunity each term to see for yourself the progress in your child's books.

You should have received a maths questionnaire last week aimed at helping us to shape the content of the maths information evening. The date of the maths parent/carer information evening is **Wednesday 6th June, 4pm** and you will receive a separate letter where you can sign up to attend.



Dementia Awareness Day

Kath Reader and her team visited Excalibur on Wednesday this week as part of Excalibur's move to become a dementia friendly school; in turn supporting Alsager's pledge to become a dementia friendly town. The children listened and engaged really well; several teachers commented on their sensitivity and maturity during the workshops. Each child made an individual pledge on how they could be a dementia friend.

As an issue which is close to our hearts, the staff will be holding a 'cupcake day' on June 15th. Staff will be baking cupcakes for the children to buy at morning break time. Monies raised will be donated to the Alzheimer's Society.

Orienteering Event

On Thursday 3rd May, over 40 Excalibur children attended the Alsager Community Trust Orienteering Competition held at Alsager School. During the event, children worked in pairs to navigate their way around the high school site. They had to use their map-reading skills to find markers placed all around the area, jotting down the letter that corresponded to the marker's location. The aim was to complete the course successfully in the fastest time. With children from Years 3 to 6 participating, it was a fantastic event for all involved.

When it came down to the results at the end of the competition, we waited with bated breath, aware that we were most probably in the top two. In the end we came a close runners up, an outstanding result for everyone involved. Well done to everyone who took part - you did Excalibur proud!

Also, many thanks to the adults that supported the event, without whom it could not have happened.

Y5/6 Swimming Gala

On Thursday 26th April 2018, a squad of sixteen Year 5 and 6 children attended the Alsager Community Trust Year 5 & 6 swimming gala. During the event, children competed in three individual races (breaststroke, backstroke and freestyle), a 4x25 medley, 4x25 relay followed by an 8 person cannon event.

There was some fantastic performances from everyone, with both our individual and group events producing several top two finishes. In the end, we came runners up, well ahead of third place and just trailing behind the winners. With a variety of swimmers, from both club competitors and recreational swimmers, the result was incredible - some of our swimmers were even asked to join Bridgestone Swimming Club.

SIP visit

We had a visit from our school improvement partner, who is an OFSTED inspector, this week. She looked over pupil books, observed teaching and learning and evaluated the school's current development priorities. She noted the high standards of learning through the school, the engagement and confidence of the children and the calm, purposeful atmosphere of our school. She also gave us some good ideas to continue to develop our curriculum.



Staffing update

We have officially welcomed Mrs. Beale to the team this week. Mrs. Beale is covering Miss McArdle's maternity leave and we hope that she enjoys being part of our team. We will keep you updated when Miss Mac's new little person arrives!

Excalibur school is committed to the continuing professional development of our staff. Mrs. Ling and Mrs. Tomkinson will be supporting the moderation process for the local authority again this year. During June they may be not in school every day as they visit schools across the county to verify end of key stage teacher assessments. (Mr. Hancock will be covering Mrs. Tomkinson's teaching commitment in Y6). This opportunity provides the school with internal expertise and ensures that we keep abreast of national curriculum and assessment issues. They both have to pass their own online assessment to be able to carry out this role, so well done to them both!

Mrs. Houldsworth currently works as a School Improvement Partner for a couple of local schools. She was recently asked by the local authority to complete a piece of work over the next few terms as a 'Strategic Champion.' This involves working with the leadership teams in other Cheshire East schools to improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils. This is good for our school in terms of strategic development and also brings a small income into the school budget.

As we approach the summer, may we remind you that - as usual - we will be looking at arrangements for classes in September 2018 and

will keep you up to date when this has been organised. We will confirm class arrangements in late June and we will plan for the children to have transition activities to help them 'move up'.

Scooters and bikes

If your child comes to school on a bike or a scooter, please can you ensure that they push their scooter/bike on school grounds and don't scoot or ride in school or up and down the path? Thank you.

Uniform

The school will no longer be stocking uniform. Excalibur uniform can be purchased directly from Smart Choice Uniform, 63 Crewe Road, Alsager. Telephone – 01270 747170. Smart Choice is run by Mr. Mittal who has been the supplier of our uniform for many years.

And Finally

As usual, any queries or concerns, please come and see a member of the team.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Lise Houldsworth
Head Teacher

Mrs Juliet Tomkinson
Deputy Head Teacher

Diary Dates

07-05-18 Bank holiday
14-05-18 Y6 SATS week
16-05-18 Reception class visit to Stockley Farm
18-05-18 FOE school disco – details to follow
21-05-18 Sports Week
21-05-18 FOE meeting 6.30pm – all welcome
23-05-18 Governors – Resources & Personnel 5pm
25-05-18 School Closes

06-06-18 SCHOOL OPENS
06-06-18 Maths evening for parents/carers 4pm
06/07-06-18 Y4 & Y5 Bikeability
11-06-18 Y1 Phonics screening week
11-06-18 Y4 visit to Blists Hill – details to follow
12/13/14-06-18 FOE Father's Day gift wrap – details to follow
13-06-18 Y5 Activity Day @ AHS – details to follow
13-06-18 New starters parent/carers evening
15-06-18 Cupcake Day
20-06-18 Y1 visit to the Sealife Centre – details to follow
25-06-18 Passport to the World week – details to follow
28-06-18 FOE non uniform day – details to follow
29-06-18 FOE Summer Fair 5-7pm – details to follow
04-07-18 Governors – Standards & Curriculum 5pm
06-07-18 Kids that Rock – details to follow
09-07-18 Kids that Rock – details to follow
10-07-18 Y5/6 production - matinee
12-07-18 Y5/6 production - evening
11-07-18 Full Governors 5pm
13-07-18 Reports OUT
16-07-18 Open classroom drop in to look at your child's books 3.15 – 5.30pm
17-07-18 Y6 garden party/rounders for Y6 children and parents/carers (no siblings please)
24-07-18 SCHOOL CLOSES