



Delivering an outstanding learning experience for all children so they flourish and thrive; enabling them to achieve their own individual excellence.



12th February 2019

Newsletter 9

Dear Parents/Carers,

The mornings are getting lighter and the promise of spring is in the air. We have been extremely busy at Excalibur with lots of exciting things going on.



National Media Museum trip

On Monday 21st January 2019, Year 6 visited the National Media Museum in Bradford as part of their exploration of their new topic: Lights, Camera, Action. During the visit, the children took part in a stop-motion animation workshop led by professional animator, Adam. Using plasticine, the children learnt several techniques of animation before embarking upon a 30 minute session where they were able to create their own original animation. The videos for these can be found on the Year 6 class webpage. The children also explored the Wonderlab, an interactive science exhibit with more than a dozen experiments based on light and sound and toured three exhibits: the Birth of Photography, the Power of TV and Action Replay and a temporary exhibit detailing the history of technology in sports coverage before returning to school.

Many thanks to the National Media Museum for their hospitality and the fantastic activities they arranged for our visit. Also, many thanks

to all of the adults who gave up their time to make the trip possible.



Reception Visit to Manchester

On Wednesday 6th February, as part of their "Terrific Transport" focus, our Reception class went on a fabulous trip to the Science and Industry museum in Manchester. All of staff were very proud of the children, who listened well and asked lots of super questions. The children enjoyed exploring the science gallery, finding out about Stephenson's rocket and taking part in an 'Engineer Eric' Workshop where they learnt how steam engines move.



Safer Internet Day

To celebrate Safer Internet Day, Key Stage 2 took part in bCyberwise workshops run by Life Education North West. Each class explored key issues surrounding internet safety, including sharing personal information, cyberbullying and age restrictions. The children took part in discussions, sorting activities and responding to scenarios, as well as watching and reflecting on some videos. Please be advised that our e-safety policy can be found on the e-safety section of our website together with our e-safety rules:

- Do keep your passwords and personal information private.
- Do report anything you find whilst on the computer that upsets or worries you to an adult.
- Do take regular breaks away from the computer.
- Do remember to be polite and kind to others whilst on the computer.
- Do ask adults before downloading anything whilst on the computer.

Alsager Community Trust Enterprise Finals

Over the course of the second half of the autumn term, Year 6 worked towards their Enterprise Project. The project involved the children working in teams to create products to sell in school. This year, the

items ranged from stress balls to snow globes, Christmas decorations and bookmarks.

In addition to creating the products, the teams also created presentations which were then delivered to Mrs. T, Mr. Pickin and Miss Hilditch. Two teams were then selected to represent Excalibur at the final at Alsager School.

On Tuesday 5th February, those two teams, accompanied by Mrs. Bundy and Mrs. Townson, headed to the high school to compete. During the competition, the teams decorated their stalls with their products and pitched them to groups of Alsager School students. They then presented their project to the judges and other teams, before taking part in a quiz.

Both of our teams were commended on the quality of their products and particularly in recognition of their sales skills and presenting. In the end, Showbiz Santas were awarded the Best Presentation Award, bringing home a brand new, sparkling trophy.

Well done to both teams for representing Excalibur with such professionalism and skill. Congratulations to Izzy, Grace, Darcey and Ella and in particular credit to Ben, Rudy, Nicolas, Evan and Will for their success in the presentation category.



Choral Competition

On Thursday 7th February, a group of our KS2 children were selected to take part in a choral competition held at St Thomas More in Crewe. The children were a credit to the school, singing loudly, clearly and with smiles on their faces! Many thanks for all the parental support, without which such ventures would not be possible. Additional thanks to the staff, especially Miss Taylor and Mrs Weatherby who were integral to the development of these young singers.

Y1 and Y2 Class Assembly

Our Year 1 and Year 2 children shared their learning from the autumn term with their parents/carers and the rest of the school. Our Year 2 children have clearly enjoyed learning all about our local area and shared some really fantastic learning. Our Year 1 children showed a great knowledge of nocturnal animals and seasons and spoke confidently and clearly about their learning. Well done Y1 and Y2 and thank you Miss Robinson and Mrs Weatherby.

Maths and Times Tables

As you may be aware, from the 2019/20 academic year onwards, schools in England will be required to administer an online multiplication tables check (MTC) to Year 4 pupils. The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will also help schools to identify pupils who have not yet mastered their times tables so that additional support can be provided. Excalibur recognises the importance of our children having a sound and rapid recall of their tables. We believe that this knowledge supports children's ability to solve more complex mathematical calculations more quickly.

For further information regarding national expectations and links to useful websites, please refer to our maths website page, where you will also be able to keep up-to-date with our Times Tables Rockstars league tables.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Houldsworth
Head Teacher

Mrs Tomkinson
Deputy Head Teacher

Diary Dates

A list of dates currently in the school diary.

New dates are in **bold**.

14-02-19 Y3 class assembly
15-02-19 Y6 Grease rehearsal @ AHS
15-02-19 School closes
25-02-19 School opens
27-02-19 Y6 Grease performance at AHS
28-02-19 Academy Photography- Classes/Groups
06 to 11-03-19 Book Fair
07-03-19 Bags2school collection
12-03-19 NSPCC assembly
12-03-19 NSPCC workshop Y5/Y6
14/15-03-19 Y4 Standon Bowers
15-03-19 Reception class assembly
18-03-19 Basketball County Finals
19-03-19 Y2 visit to Ford Green Hall – details to follow
19-03-19 NSPCC Parent Workshop
20-03-19 Y1 trip to Spaceport – details to follow
21-03-19 Y5 Brass concert – details to follow
22-03-19 FOE non uniform day
23-03-19 FOE Easter egg hunt – Merelake Way
26-03-19 FOE Mother's Day Wrap
27-03-19 FOE Mother's Day Wrap
28-03-19 FOE Mother's Day Wrap
28-03-19 Parent's Evening 4pm – 7pm
01-04-19 Governors meeting
02-04-19 Y5 Smokebusters
02-04-19 Parent's Evening 3.30pm – 5.30pm
03-04-19 Y5 visit to Wesley Place
05-04-19 Easter Service
05-04-19 School closes
23-04-19 School opens
02-05-19 INSET day
07-05-19 Y4 Library Visit
13-05-19 Y6 SATS week
20-05-19 Sports Week
24-05-19 Sports Day
24-05-19 School closes