

Friends of Excalibur



Winter Wonderland

From our camping Santa to the beautiful sounds of music around the Christmas tree, our Christmas Fair was definitely something a little different this year.

Although it felt like Jack Frost was nipping at our nose, the weather didn't stop us from enjoying listening

to the beautiful carols sung around the Christmas tree by the children, while sipping mulled wine to keep us warm. On the lead up to the fair, when the children were asked to join in the service, we expected about 10-15 to say "yes please". So, imagine our surprise when we were told over 60 of the children had said that they wanted to be part of the evening. What a fantastic job they did. With the help of their teachers, they pulled off a beautiful carol service.

Although our alternate Christmas wasn't everyone's favourite, we still had a great show of support which we were very grateful for.

Raffle prizes

Well done to all who won one of our amazing raffle prizes this year. We had some lovely hampers and prizes.

An extra well done is needed for Josh in Year 1 and Holly in Year 6 for selling the most raffle tickets and winning themselves a chocolate hamper.

In total, the Winter Wonderland made £447.56.



2500 Milk Bottle Fail
Thank you for your support in collecting and washing out milk bottles. We can't believe the support that we got from, not only our friends and families, but also from the wider community. We are still reeling from the defeat, but we did have a little fun trying to get it to work.



1

SMARTIES

Look out for the smarties tube challenge this week. This will be a month long event for the children.

2

EASTER EGG HUNT

We will see the return of the Family Easter Egg Hunt in March. Bring all your family along as there is something for everyone!

3

MOTHER'S DAY WRAP

Back by popular demand is Mother's Day wrap a chance for the children to get their special someone a token of their appreciation.

Teachers spend

We donated £100 to each class back in September for them to spend on items that help to bring more to the learning environments.

The teachers were given a small amount to make a little difference to their class room. There were no rules for the money, apart from that it went towards items that they would not normally be able to get.

The teachers put their money towards some fantastic items for their class rooms, ensuring that the children's learning and development is engaging and captures their imagination.

Reception Class - Mud Kitchen

Year 1 - Jigsaw and Morning Activities

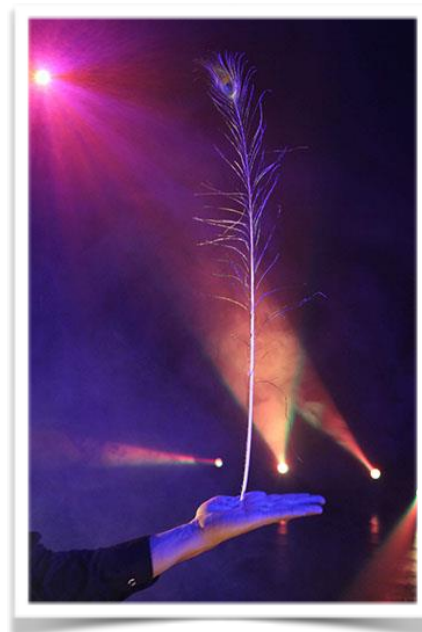
Year 2 - Circus Skills Equipment

Year 3 - Topic Books

Year 4 - Wet Play Equipment and Topic Books

Year 5 – Dictionaries

Year 6 - You are Awesome books and Word Games



“School disco night”

We had our first glow disco last year which was enjoyed by many - although we have sacked the DJ as she didn't know what she was doing. Over the next year, we plan on building on our glow disco equipment so that we can bring more events and new experiences for the children.

MOVIE NIGHT

We have had another successful movie night with all of the children who attended leaving with a smile on their faces.

We have had a lot of comments about us not sharing the film before the event.

A night like movie night is a chance for the children to socialise with their friends while also giving them a sense of independence. We can assure you that all of the children had an enjoyable night with their friends. We made a wonderful £285 to add towards funding those special extras for our children.



Leavers Hoodies

We are making a change to the hoodies this year!

Each year, before we consider funding any other school activity, we have to raise in the region of £800 for the year 6 leavers hoodies. After very long discussions, and lots of pros and cons being spoken about, we have decided that, from this year, we will not be funding the full cost of the hoodie. We came to an agreement that we would for now, fund 50% of the cost, leaving parents and carer's the remainder to pay. Please believe me when I say this is not a decision we took lightly.

The reason we have made this very difficult decision is down to time and funding. To raise the money for the hoodies alone, it takes two possibly three events. We feel that when the decision was made to buy the hoodies, circumstances were very different. We are currently looking for the best company and, as soon as we have a cost, we will share with all year 6 parents. Hoodies will be ordered after Easter.



“Becoming a Charity”

Over the last 12 months, we have moved from being Friends Of Excalibur and have registered officially as a PTA. We chose to do this as a committee as it enables us to do more activities out in the community, enables us to receive discounts for other experiences and we are able to now match fund with companies to increase our fundraising. Prior to Christmas, we had several discussions as a committee and with the school, resulting in a decision being made that we would make the official jump to become a charity. This was agreed with the governors and, since Christmas, we have now started to put the wheels in motion. We are in the early stages, but we hope that by the summer, we will be officially a charity in our own rights, allowing us to apply for funding for the larger requests such as theatre trips, The Life Education van and artists.

If you work for a company that offers match funding, please inform your class rep or let us know on the Facebook page and we can double profits from our events.

Silver Smarties challenge.

Yesterday, the children came home with a tube of smarties, for the Silver Smarties challenge. The smarties are for the children to eat, but they will need to keep the tube. They will have the month of March to fill their tubes with 20p coins and return them to school. Each tube holds approximately £12.



We've given you these smarties to eat but the empty tube you must keep.

20p pieces are what you must find.

Ask friends and family. They won't mind.

Fill up your tube, right to the top.

Return in three weeks and we'll collect the lot!

