



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

10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't quite believe that we have reached Christmas already? It has certainly been extremely festive in school! All of our children have been practising songs ready for their performances that they will be sharing with you next week. They sound absolutely fantastic! Information regarding access to the virtual Christmas celebrations will be sent out next week.

### **Opal – Outdoor Play and Learning**

Many thanks to everyone who has been in touch regarding the donation of equipment to enrich our outdoor play and learning provision. This equipment will now be checked and put out for our children to use during lunchtimes.

If you do have anything you think we could use to further enrich our provision, please send a photograph of the item to [contact@excalibur.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:contact@excalibur.cheshire.sch.uk). We will then assess whether the item is suitable for our needs and will be in touch with you.

### **Library Visits**

All of our classes have now made their visits to Alsager Library. This fantastic opportunity was made possible by the staff at the library, who greeted us warmly and provided the children with all the information they needed to make full use of their local library.

If your child borrowed a book while visiting the library, please ensure that they either return or renew their book before the deadline date.

### **Virtual Author Visit for Years 2, 3 & 4**

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December, children in Years 2, 3 and 4 received a virtual author visit from Chris Madeley, author of the Cones Series of books. During the session, Chris read the story to the children, who all received their own copies, and answered questions afterwards. Chris was hugely impressed with the enthusiasm shown by all of the children and from the quality of their questions. This opportunity was supported by Caddick Construction, who have donated many copies of the book which have now been distributed in our classrooms and in the Excalibur Library.

### **Year 2 Activity Session led by Sports Ambassadors**

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, our fantastic sports ambassadors (Maisie, Tom, Jenson and Ellie J) led sporting activities with Year 2 children from across the Alsager primary schools. For the second time this year, they represented Excalibur superbly, showing true leadership skills.

A group of our Year 2 children attended the event and took part in five different activities which were led by sports ambassadors from all of the local schools. Our Year 2 children participated brilliantly. Well done to everyone who attended.

### **Excalibur Library – Donations and Recommendations**

Our Excalibur Library continues to grow with a host of new additions coming in regularly. Many thanks to everyone who has donated money to buy books or the books themselves – they really do enrich the reading experiences of our whole school community. To see the wonderful new additions, take a look at the following page on our website:

<http://www.excalibur.cheshire.sch.uk/page/whats-new-in-our-excalibur-library/112100>.

As always, if you or your children have any recommendations, please let your child's class teacher know. Similarly, if you have any books at home which you no longer use or want, please consider donating them to our library. We also have our Amazon Wish List where books can be purchased as a donation.

### **DT Week**

Last week, children across the school took part in our very first DT Week. During the week, the children designed, created and evaluated a variety of fantastic creations. These ranged from traditional African homes in Year 6 to breakfast bars in Year 4 and smoothies in Year 2. Keep an eye on our social media channels and school website for to find out more about what our children got up to during the week.

### **History Workshops with Yellowbrick Road**

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, Year 4 and 5 benefitted from the fantastic workshops delivered by Veronica And Alison From Yellowbrick Road. During the day, Year 4 learnt all about the chronology of where the Vikings fit into the timeline and how they entered Britain. They also had some fun learning Norse dances and through acting the story of Beowulf. Finally, the children got the opportunity to hold and observe some real Viking artefacts! Many thanks to Veronica and Alison for inspiring our children to work in the footsteps of history.

Year 5 enjoyed a very informative and fun-filled afternoon with Yellowbrick Road on Wednesday. They started by looking at the chronology of some key events during World War II and then put it in context with other historical periods/events in history. They role played

hearing the air raid siren and being inside an air raid shelter, which helped them to understand what it might have been like during The Blitz. They were given the opportunity to handle artefacts from World War II and learnt how to do the Jitterbug. To finish the workshop, we role-played a street party to celebrate VE day. Year 5 demonstrated their knowledge of World War II and asked lots of insightful questions. Miss Robinson was very proud of them all.

#### **Elf Run in Aid of St. Luke's (Cheshire) Hospice**

Today, the whole school is taking part in a sponsored Elf Run to raise money for St. Luke's (Cheshire) Hospice. The children will be doing laps of our school path, donned in their elf hats and ears. They will also receive a porridge pot courtesy of event sponsors Mornflake.

Many thanks to everyone who has already donated to this worthy cause. Your children may bring in sponsorship forms (please bring them in no later than Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021). There is also a Just Giving link where you can donate online:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/excalibur-primary-school-elf-run-2021>.

#### **Alsager Netball Details**

We have a host of fantastic sports clubs in our locality, one of which is Alsager Netball. They have been in touch to promote their coaching sessions which take place on Friday evenings at Alsager Leisure Centre. 5:00pm to 6:00pm is for Years 1 to 5; 5:45pm to 6:45pm is for Years 6 & 7. Further details can be found at [www.alsagernetballclub.co.uk](http://www.alsagernetballclub.co.uk).

**Mrs Jones**  
**Head Teacher**

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