



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

5th February 2021
Newsletter 12

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here we are at the end of another week of fabulous learning.
This week has been Children's Mental Health week. Throughout the week, class teachers have included on their learning pages a range of activities around encouraging the children to express themselves. Please have a look at our gallery to see some of the things that the children have created.
<http://www.excalibur.cheshire.sch.uk/page/home-learning-gallery/94625>

Reception

This week in Reception started with the children making some delicious polar bear toast and then drawing or making polar bears from a range of resources. The children have been exploring rhyme through stories and by generating rhyming words. They kept their bodies and brains active with Wild Workouts and Cosmic Yoga. Our Reception children thought about what makes them happy and what makes them special by making happiness sunshines and shining stars. The children are getting really good at counting forwards and backwards to 20 and are fast becoming experts at subitising to 5. This week, the children were challenged further to subitise what they could see on a 10's frame. They also used their 10's frames to help them to combine groups to find totals. Some of the children even wrote the number sentence to show this! As well as counting in 1's, the children explored making pairs and began to count in 2's. What a fabulous week you have had Reception. Well done for all your hard work.

★ **Star from near: Katy – For your super attitude to school.**

★ **Star from afar: Ruby – For working really hard on your subitising skills.**

Year 1

Year 1 have had another busy week. In maths, the children have been learning different strategies for subtraction. They have used these strategies to help double check their answers and have learnt to count

backwards (on a number line) to complete missing digits in a number sentence. In English, the children have written some brilliant book reviews as they have completed their work on 'Lost and Found'. They have also been brilliant readers and have earned a new Epic badge for the class 'Readerpillar'. The children have explored their emotions through art and music during activities for 'Children's Mental Health Week'. Keep up the great work Year 1!

★ **Star from near: Theo – For putting so much effort into every area of learning.**

★ **Star from afar: Lissie - For going that extra mile with her home learning activities. Keep it up!**

Year 2

How happy are you? Year 2 are as happy as a rabbit eating carrots!

Our Year 2 children have been using similes in their writing this week. Here are some of their favourites:
As sad as rain.

As sad as the moon on a foggy night.

As brave as a soldier.

As busy as Manhattan.

As happy as a footballer scoring a brilliant goal.

As high as mountains.

The people gathered like ants in a nest.

People gathered like penguins keeping warm in the cold.

Our Year 2 class have also been busy touring Belfast, looking for evidence that there use to be a castle in the city centre. As well as all of that, the children have continued their musical journey through the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. What an action packed week Year 2!

★ **Star from near: Ella – Your super work in maths and your fabulous knowledge of the Sahara Desert**

★ **Star from afar: Albie - For your use of creative similes.**

Year 3

Year 3 have had another amazing week of online learning. For Children's Mental Health Week, the children were given the opportunity to draw their own T-shirt design to express themselves. Those that were in the classroom on Monday, even painted their designs on the windows! It has been lovely to see so many creative ideas and activities taking place this week. In maths, Year 3 have started a new topic all about money. The children have been learning all about the value of each coin and note and have started to count in pounds and pence. They have also been converting between pounds and pence. In English, Year 3 have started writing a recount from the perspective of a male Emperor penguin. They have learned how to plan their writing and have understood that choosing different sentence starters can make their writing more exciting to read. In addition to

this, in their science learning, the children have been investigating which objects are made from reflective materials. They have also been learning the days of the week in French, and keeping active with PE challenges. Well done, Year 3! Keep up all your hard work!

★ **Star from near: Alexia – For showing such resilience in your maths.**

★ **Star from afar: Emily - For your enthusiasm towards all online learning activities and for your superb effort and determination every week. Keep it up!**

Year 4

Miss Taylor and Miss Hilditch have been really impressed with the enthusiasm in which the children have approached new learning over the past few weeks! This week in year 4, the children have been looking at fractions for the first time! They have been finding fractions of shapes and exploring equivalent fractions. In English, the children have been using a range of language features such as personification, similes and onomatopoeia to create some stunning volcano poetry. It has been lovely seeing the children approaching the wellbeing topic, "Express yourself" in a range of different ways- some did some cooking, some wrote songs and some produced lovely art work. The children have all created their own "things to look forward to" jar. The children have also painted their windows in the classroom!

★ **Star from near: Grace – For creating some brilliant and independent volcano poetry.**

★ **Star from afar: Lucy – For always challenging yourself and contributing brilliantly in live lessons.**

Year 5

This week, Year 5 have had another jam-packed week of learning. Firstly, they have started a new maths unit about fractions less than and greater than one. In English, they have written a balanced argument, discussing the question - Was it right to evacuate children during the war? In computing, the children have made use of text, photo, sound and video editing tools to refine their work. Over the past few weeks, they have been learning techniques to enable them to draw a self-portrait. They are going to be working on their final piece over the next couple of weeks. In science, the children have been learning about the universe and what it's made of! Finally, they have practised speaking and writing about their hobbies in French.

★ **Star from near: Oscar – For his quiet determination to achieve his best**

★ **Star from afar: Keeley - For working to the best of your best to achieve super results.**

Year 6

This week, Year 6 have been busy completing their writing about Philippe Petit, the man who walked between the twin towers. After practising the required skills last week, they wrote a narrative piece about the high-wire artist's exploits in New York City. The children developed their skills with ratio problem solving, as well as looking at scaling and scale factors.

Linking with Children's Mental Health Week, on Wednesday, the children engaged in a range of mental health activities. Using Buddy Oliver's YouTube videos and recipes, some of our Year 6 children chose to bake. Some children also opted for some mindful colouring and some participated in some of the National Trust's "things to do before you're 11 3/4". In PE, Year 6 have been practising their tag rugby skills and have analysed a video of England playing against South Africa. Using the artwork of artist Jack Kirby, Year 6 have critiqued his work and have then created their own version of Captain America. In computing, Year 6 have worked further on their stop-motion animations.

What a great week, Year 6! Keep up the great work.

★ **Star from near: Tilda – For outstanding work ethic and focus**

★ **Star from afar: Rose - For outstanding effort in every single aspect of her online learning which is always completed to a high standard**

John o' Groats to Land's End Challenge

With many of us at home more often than usual, it is sometimes difficult to get out to do as much exercise. With that in mind, the Excalibur staff team decided to undertake a sporting challenge: we decided to travel the distance between John o' Groats to Land's End (a distance of 874 miles) by either walking, running or other similar forms of exercise, such as on a treadmill or elliptical trainer.

Each week, we planned to give an update on the newsletter, including a mileage count of how close we were to our target. This week, we have included January's count too (as taken from our Fitbits and phone data). As you can see, we have already exceeded the distance! Therefore, we will be announcing a more ambitious challenge next Friday.

We would like to extend the challenge to you all. Can you cover the distance between John o' Groats to Land's End? If you would like to take part, keep a track of the distance you walk or run over the next few weeks. This can include dog walks and walks with your families. Feel free to send some photos of your progress via Seesaw.

Excalibur Team Mileage Count (from January 1st) –
1194miles
And finally

We are keen to get our remote learning provision right for our children. Please continue to provide us with any feedback that you would like to share on contact@excalibur.cheshire.sch.uk

If you require any further assistance in any other matter, please do not hesitate in contacting us.

Mrs Jones
Head Teacher