



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

12th February 2021
Newsletter 13

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't quite believe that we are at the end of this half term. I know that I have said it before, but I cannot emphasise enough how appreciated your continued support and understanding has been. At this moment, schools have not been advised about return dates. However, please be reassured that, as soon as this information is made available, we will let you know. I hope that you have a lovely half term week.

Reception

In our Reception class this week, Pancakes, Chinese New Year and Valentines have shaped the learning. The children have made lists of ingredients to help Mr Wolf with his pancakes. Then, after watching Mrs Rogers make pancakes, the children thought of words to describe how they might taste and then either made them for real or designed their own on paper. The children have also measured to find the tallest and smallest and the longest and the shortest and used their "Days of the Week" song to help order the days. The children concluded their research about Polar Regions with a great rap from CBeebies Andy and some fantastic writing to complete their penguin life cycles. On Friday, the children learnt all about Chinese New Year, discovering how and why Chinese New Year is celebrated. What a lot of learning, Reception. Wow!

★ **Star from near: Aleena – For your fantastic maths work.**

★ **Star from afar: Jamie – For your amazing RWI work.**

Year 1

In English, the Year 1 children have been busy with their 'Explorers' unit. They have planned and recorded their own adventure stories of an expedition to the South Pole and have used a variety of sentence openers to make their writing more interesting for the reader. In Maths, the children have looked at related families for subtraction and addition. They have also worked on word problems by identifying the important information to help solve the sum. During topic work,

our Year 1 children have found out about safe and unsafe secrets. They have also discovered facts about Ernest Shackleton, drawn self-portraits using colour to show emotions and have celebrated Chinese New Year. Year 1 have worked tremendously hard and should definitely enjoy a well-earned rest!

★ **Star from near: Charlie – For creating a brilliant story map.**

★ **Star from afar: Matthew - For a fantastic attitude to all home learning tasks. Keep up the fabulous work!**

Year 2

This week, our Year 2 class have taken in the sights of Edinburgh. What a fantastic time they had! They have also been learning about Greyfriar's Bobby and have created a really informative fact file.

★ **Star from near: Freddie R – For fantastic work in maths and English.**

Year 3

This week, Year 3 have had an amazing week of online learning! They have been applying their knowledge of adding and subtracting money to calculate change. In English, the children have written some super paragraphs for an Emperor penguin recount. Well done, Year 3! On Safer Internet Day, the children discovered that not all information online is true and sometimes it can be unreliable. In science, the children have been investigating which objects are opaque and which objects are transparent. Year 3 have also been developing their knowledge of tempo and dynamics to use musical vocabulary to evaluate different pieces of music. In PE this week, the Year 3 class have been practising their throwing and catching skills and ensuring they keep themselves active. Well done for all your hard work, Year 3!

★ **Star from near: Emma – For your superb attitude in everything you do.**

★ **Star from afar: Corey - For his superb effort in his online learning.**

Year 4

This week in maths, the children have started their work on the complicated area of fractions. They have been learning what a mixed number is and how they can order them on a number line. In English, the children have turned their hands to poetry and have created some atmospheric and engaging work. Some examples of these can be found on our Home Learning Gallery for this week! Year 4 have learnt this week about what makes a natural disaster and what must happen for something to be classed as a natural disaster! Both Miss Hilditch and Miss Taylor are incredibly proud of all the

hard work and dedication shown in Year 4 this half term! Well done, Team 4!

★ **Star from near: Ewan - For always putting 100% effort into every piece of work and showing such resilience throughout the week.**

★ **Star from afar: Harrison W - For showing perseverance and always challenging himself when completing a task!**

Year 5

This week, Year 5 have been working incredibly hard learning how to find equivalent fractions then ordering and comparing proper and improper fractions. In their English work, the children have thought carefully about what evacuation during the war would have been like. They have written, in the role of a war-time evacuee, postcards to their families, discussing their new billeting homes and families. In their artwork, the children have added colour and shade to their self-portraits which look absolutely amazing! In science, the children have been learning about the role of astronomers and have researched famous astronomers throughout history. What a lot of interesting facts they found out! In music, Year 5 have been learning the song "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and "The Quartermaster's Store" a traditional folk song about a 'Quartermaster' - the officers in the army responsible for making sure everyone in the army has the correct equipment and materials for them to do their jobs. It certainly sounds like Year 5 have had a very busy week. Well done for all your hard work, Year 5.

★ **Star from near: Jennifer – For being “Star of the Term” in PE with Sports Coach North West**

★ **Star from near: Jessica– For being a delight to have in Year 5.**

★ **Star from afar: Maisie N for showing good resilience and working hard to achieve your goals.**

Year 6

This week, Year 6 have been studying statistics in maths, with a particular focus on reading, understanding and drawing line graphs. In English, following their recent focus on Philippe Petit, the children have used their knowledge of formal vocabulary to write a balanced argument on the topic: Should Philippe Petit have walked between the twin towers? Whilst studying the phenomenon of light, our Year 6 class explored reflection and how it can be used; this included working on one of the courses on Seneca, an interactive website which the children are now using. After two weeks of learning the skills of stop-motion, and starting to put it into practice, this week is the final week on the topic. The animations already seen have been superb. Well done, Year 6.

★ **Star from near: – Graysen for his fantastic attitude to learning.**

★ **Star from afar: Calum for a diligent and hard-working attitude across all subjects - well done.**

Mega Mileage Challenge

Following the successful completion of the Excalibur staff team's challenge, we are now challenging all members of the school to take part and travel the virtual distance between John o' Groats to Land's End. Click the following link to watch Mrs. Thompson and Mr. Hancock launch this whole-school challenge: <http://www.excalibur.cheshire.sch.uk/page/john-o-groats-to-lands-end>.

Now, every fortnight, class teachers will put a task on Seesaw entitled "John o' Groats to Land's End Challenge" where you will be able to send photos and videos of you walking, running or biking. You can also send your total mileage through Seesaw as well. The total mileage will then be calculated and there will be updates on the newsletters.

As well as the whole-school challenge, the Excalibur staff team are now attempting to travel the length of the equator, a total of 24,901 miles.

You can stay up-to-date with the progress by checking out the "Mega Mileage Challenges" on the school website.

This week, the groups of children in school have been busy working on building up their mileage by doing laps of the path around the field. Reception have totalled 9 miles and Year 2 have racked up 78 miles between them.

Total Staff Mileage (since February 1st): 520.42 miles

We have 24,381 miles left to get all the way around the equator!

Wellbeing Support

The DfE have compiled a comprehensive list of resources to support parents and children who feel particularly overwhelmed by the pandemic.

https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/02/01/mental-health-resources-for-children-parents-carers-and-school-staff/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

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