



6<sup>th</sup> September 2016

## Newsletter 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school! We hope that you had a lovely summer. We are looking forward to the new academic year.

### New gates

Please be advised that the new electronic gates and drive lighting is in operation from today. A reminder that parents/carers should not be using the staff car park at any time without the prior permission of the school. The gates are controlled from the reception desk and the office hours are 8.30am until 4pm.

Should you need to visit the reception desk, please do not come through the school from the playground when dropping off or picking up your child; use the front entrance. It is obviously very important for the children's safety that we know who is in the building at any time. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Also, from Y1 onwards the children should be coming into their classrooms in the mornings independently. There is a checklist for them and teachers and teaching assistants are there to help them if they need it. We pride ourselves at Excalibur for the resourceful attitude of our children. Please help us to encourage them to be as independent as they can by saying goodbye at the door and not coming into the classroom or junior cloakroom in the mornings. They really are fine ☺



### Free School Meals

Since September 2014, all infants have been eligible for a free school meal, but some children

may be eligible for extra funding through the pupil premium.

*It is worth registering for Free School Meals anyway because if you register:*

- *School receives a 'pupil premium' – an extra payment which can be spent on useful services;*
- *Registering your child may also get you financial help for extra things like uniform, trips or music lessons.*

Whether a child is entitled to pupil premium is confidential between your family, the class teacher and the senior leadership team. The rest of the school community (including governors) can only see anonymous data.

Please see Mrs Hilditch in the office or visit [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/fsm](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/fsm) or call 0300 123 5012 to see if your child is entitled or to make an application.



### Meet the Teacher

You will shortly receive an invitation to attend a short presentation to 'meet' your child's class teacher (dates on the bottom of this letter). I encourage you to attend; teachers deliver important information about the curriculum, homework, expectations and routines for the year. All of these things do alter and develop as a child moves through the year groups and as education policy and practice is updated. Often, attending this meeting can help to: understand the best ways to support your child with their learning; alleviate any uncertainty and pre-empt any confusion later on. **These meetings are for parents/carers only.** Unfortunately, on these evenings, we do not have capacity to supervise children or siblings. Therefore, we politely request that only adults attend. Thank you.

### A few reminders..

Some of these messages are not new but for your information:

- Pupils should not play on any equipment in the morning before school;

- Any late/leaving early pupils should be signed in/out using the touchscreen in the office area;
- School cannot authorise pupil absence in term time except in exceptional circumstances;
- Please drive and park with care and consideration; to keep our children safe and to respect our neighbours;
- Excalibur is a healthy school; please try to send only healthy snacks into school – no sweets/chocolate bars;
- Water bottles are encouraged to be brought in daily (water only please).
- The extra-curricular letter will be sent out this week. Clubs will start week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> September;
- Don't forget that our website has lots of information for you;
- Holiday dates 2017-2018 are attached to this letter and available on our website – please don't rely on external websites as we are aware that they do not always publish the correct dates.



### **Staffing**

We officially welcome Mrs Janet Weatherby to the team who is our Y2 teacher and Key Stage One lead. We also welcome Mr Daniel Hancock who will be team teaching with Mrs T in year 6. We have a new face on Reception as Mrs Nicky King joins us as receptionist and administrative officer working with Mrs Hilditch to run the school office and finally, Mrs Bailey. Mrs Bailey (aka Miss Street). Miss Street got married over the summer break. I am sure you will join me in offering congratulations to her and her husband.



### **And Finally..**

Excalibur operates an 'open door' policy which means that we will always endeavour to speak with you and support families in any way that we can. Please arrange to speak to a member of the team should you have any questions or concerns. If you are a working parent, we can be contacted

via notes, by telephone or email and we will reply to messages as soon as possible.

Please remember that teachers are with their classes from 8.50am to 3.15pm and should you need to speak with a class teacher, a time after school is preferable. If you need to speak with me, I will always try my best to do so. Appointments may not always be necessary.

We look forward to working in partnership with you this year.

Yours Faithfully,

Lise Houldsworth  
Headteacher

## **Diary Dates**

This is a list of dates currently in the school diary.

06-09-16 FOE Tears & Tissues afternoon for Reception parents/carers
13-09-16 Meet the Teacher – 4pm Y6, 4.30pm Y4, 5pm Y3
14-09-16 Meet the Teacher – 4pm Y5, 4.30pm Y2, 5pm Y3
15-09-16 Meet the Teacher 4pm Reception
19-09-16 Y6 to Laches Wood
05-10-16 Governors - Community
07-10-16 Harvest assembly – Infants (details to follow)
07-10-16 FOE discos
08-10-16 One World Week Festival in Alsager
13-10-16 Parent/Teacher meetings
18-10-16 Parent/Teacher meetings
21-10-16 School closes

01-11-16 School opens
09-11-16 Governors – Strategic Leadership
17-11-16 Individual photographs
23-11-16 Governors – Learning & Teaching
07-12-16 Governors - Full
09-12-16 Carol Service @ St Mary's – Juniors (details to follow)
13-12-16 Christmas celebration – Infants (details to follow)
23-12-16 School closes