



1st September 2014

Newsletter 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the new academic year everyone! We hope that you all managed to spend some fun times with family and friends over the summer holidays. The staff and governors at Excalibur are looking forward to working in partnership with you this year to ensure the best possible opportunities for our children. As you know, we welcome Miss Heather Taylor to the team here at Excalibur and, of course, all our new children and families - you are all very welcome! Please ask if you need any information or are unsure about anything at all.

Updates

The work scheduled for the summer has been completed and school is looking smart. New carpets, doors, blinds and toilets are in place. Redecoration is complete. We have a couple of the inevitable 'snags' with some minor cosmetic details on the toilets which will be resolved in the next few weeks.

Mr Burgess has replaced some pieces of the fence surrounding the fort and had a lot of fun with his nail gun! Please can I remind all parents and children that, for health and safety reasons, at no time should the boundary fencing to the play equipment be used to climb on or jump over - we've seen you! On a serious note, we think that this is what has led to some of the planks being damaged, we know this does not occur in school playtimes; please respect our equipment afterschool too.

Looking ahead

This year is full of fun and challenge for us all - we have the new curriculum to work with and also universal free school meals for infants (UFSM). We will be working flexibly with the catering team to ensure that UFSM is

implemented well. I would like to repeat the message from a previous newsletter in case anyone missed it:

From September 2014, all infants are eligible for a free school meal, but some children may be eligible for extra funding through the pupil premium. It is worth registering whether or not your child is going to have a free school lunch because:

- *School receives a 'pupil premium' -an extra payment which can be spent on useful services;*
- *Registering your child may also get 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 or call 0300 123 5012 to see if your child is entitled or to make an application.

We have been expecting an inspection for some time now. For your information, under the current OFSTED framework (which changes every few months) we would be given notice of an inspection by lunchtime the day before the inspectors arrive and the inspection would be conducted over a couple of days. In the meantime, it is very helpful to us if you complete OFSTED's parentview online survey of how well the school is doing. It doesn't take long to complete and there is a link to it on our website.

Meet the Teacher

You will shortly receive an invitation to attend an informal presentation to 'meet' your child's class teacher. I would urge you to attend as 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 often attending the meeting can help to: understand the best ways to support your child with their learning; to alleviate any uncertainty and pre-empt any

confusion later on. **These meetings are for parents/carers only**, not pupils. We do not have capacity to supervise children or siblings. Therefore, we politely request that only adults attend. In response to feedback, we have moved the meetings slightly later to help families attend. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mrs Bain

As you know, Mrs Bain has been absent due to ill-health since June. She is not yet back to full health and will not be returning to work for the next few weeks. We will keep you informed of her progress as it develops. She is on the mend; is still sending the staff her famous biscuits and cakes and is very keen to get back into school!

A few reminders..

These messages are not new but for your information:

- Pupils should not play on any equipment 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;
- Come and see us/telephone us with any worries or problems - we have an open door policy and will try to speak with you as soon as we can (we politely remind you that teachers are with their classes from 8.50-3.15 and either before or after these times will be more productive).

Friends of Excalibur (FOE)

FOE already have a number of family activities planned this term. They are an extremely important part of our school and not only raise a terrific amount of funding for those 'extras' which benefit everyone's children, but they give us community events for our families to enjoy. FOE are a friendly group of people and need your support with organising and attending

events. If you would like to get involved in any way at all, please do - everyone is welcome to the meetings (held in the evening at The Manor). You might not be able to attend all meetings and events, but any help at all is appreciated. Dates of meetings and events are found below. Names of class contacts for FOE are also on our website and they would be glad to tell you more. Thank you.

Diary Dates

This is a list of dates currently in the school diary. You can also use our school calendar on our website which is updated as dates are added.

Tuesday 2/9/14 SCHOOL OPENS
3/9/14 FOE tears & tissues coffee morning for reception parents in the hall 9.15-10am
8/9/14 FOE meeting @ The Manor 7.30pm
W/B 8/9/14 Meet the Teacher Meetings - details to follow
16/9/14 Y3 Singing Together @ AHS - details to follow
19/9/14 Y2 trip New Brighton - letter to follow
19/9/14 FOE Family games evening - details to follow
24/9/14-26/9/14 Y6 Kingswood residential
2/10/14 Harvest Service - details to follow
11/10/14 Alsager One World Week festival
15/10/14 Governors Meeting (Community) 5.30pm
16/10/14 PHOTOGRAPHS
17/10/14 FOE children's disco
21/10/14 & 23/10/14 Parents Evenings
24/10/14 SCHOOL CLOSES

4/11/14 School Opens
5/11/14 FOE bonfire cake sale
12/11/14 Governors Meeting (Teaching and Learning) 5.30pm
W/B 17/11/14 ANTI-BULLYING WEEK
3/12/14 Governors meeting (Strategic Leadership) 5.30pm
5/12/14 FOE Christmas Fair
10/12/14 Full Governors Meeting 5pm
19/12/14 SCHOOL CLOSES

Yours Faithfully,
Mrs Lise Houldsworth
Head Teacher