



21st October 2014

Newsletter 3

Dear Parents/Carers,

Wow! What a whirlwind half term!



Harvest

The children led a very well attended harvest assembly. Rev Pete Howard also joined us. The children learnt to be thankful because not everyone is as fortunate as we are and also learnt a little of what harvest was like during wartime. Thank you for your support in donating goods for Alsager Food Bank.

Moreover, I think we may need an extension to the hall so many of you attended!



Chester visit Y3

Y3 enjoyed a fabulous visit to Chester where they walked the Roman walls and really lit their imaginations about Roman life. Miss Taylor was impressed with all the children.



Y4 visit to Blists Hill

To help bring their Victorian topic to life, Y4 visited Blists Hill. They had a terrific day and really understood what life was like in Victorian times. Mr Cotterill was thrilled with the attitude to learning shown by the class.



One World Festival

We had an assembly led by a member of the Alsager One World Committee and Year 4 worked with Mika from Art Brasil. They had a fabulous experience and 16 children then attended the festival and performed their

dance in front of visitors. Well done everyone and thank you for giving up your time.

At Excalibur, it is very important to us that our children develop knowledge, awareness and respect for other cultures and beliefs. You may know that we have a global community display which celebrates our friends and families who may live or have lived in another part of the world. If you have any photos which could be added or displayed, then please drop them in to the office or pass them to your child's class teacher.



Y5 World War II visit

Year 5 visited Congleton Museum and Woodcock Well School to learn more about World War II and life in Britain at this crucial stage in our history. Miss Robinson thought that the children took a great deal from the experience, including the wartime lunch served to them!



Friends of Excalibur (FOE)

The AGM was very well attended and the committee members were elected. Please find a list below:

Chair - Gemma Goddard

Vice Chair - Sarah Sproston

Secretary - Sarah Cliff

Treasurer - Yvonne Hilditch

There will be representatives for each year group coming soon...so watch out for your class F.O.E representative.

F.O.E are keen to support the experiences which our children have, particularly those extras which are limited within the school budget. Therefore, they have decided to subsidise a theatre visit for every child. As a school, we value the experience and educational benefit of a theatre visit but we cannot attend as often as we like due to costs; so this offer is tremendous. We are planning, in the New Year, to take the children to see an age-appropriate quality production. I am sure that you will agree that all our children will enjoy and gain

from the experience. We will keep you posted with details as arrangements are made.

A huge thanks also to friends who came in and helped with some tidying and gardening of our grounds. We are really fortunate to have such great outdoor space and we would like to thank you for your support, particularly the help with Laura's garden, Richard's garden and the willow arch.



Cheshire East Youth Theatre

The new term has begun at Cheshire East Youth Theatre and there are still some spaces available in the following groups: Lyceum Youth Theatre 5-7 year olds on Mondays, 8-10 year olds on Tuesdays. Alsager Youth Theatre 7-11 year olds on Wednesdays. Cheshire East Youth Theatre is about building in confidence, teamwork, negotiation and other social skills through theatre techniques. Young people also get the chance to perform at Crewe Lyceum Theatre. For more information and to join please contact the Youth Theatre Coordinator on ceyt@cheshireeast.gov.uk or 07709180296

School Health Services in Cheshire East Survey

The School Health Service is about to change - a new service will be in place from September 2015. Cheshire East Council's Public Health Team want to provide more nurses, provide the service all year round and be more accessible to children and their parents/carers. Before the changes are made the Council would like to gain the views of those that use the service - namely parents and their children. You can let the Council have your views by finding an on line questionnaire at <http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schoolhealthsurvey>



Internet Safety

Last week, I attended a digital safeguarding training day. The afternoon was led by Cheshire Police and I received CEOP training (Child Exploitation Online Protection). I thought that I was fairly 'savvy' regarding

online safety/online gaming/cyber bullying and the associated risks, but to say that I had my eyes opened would be somewhat of an understatement. To this end, I have organised for an evening event for all parents at school. **I urge you to attend.** Do you know what the following mean - POS, PIR, GNOC, WTGP, 182? If not, **you need to attend.** Please complete and send in the slip below to book a place.



Uniform

A gentle reminder, please. Excalibur's uniform policy is below:

Winter

Grey skirt/trousers

White polo shirts or white shirts

Blue sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo

White/grey/black socks/tights

Summer

Grey shorts, blue/white dresses, white polo shirts. White/grey/black socks.

Footwear

Black shoes - Please ensure that footwear is suitable for the rigours of a school day. Fashion shoes, boots or shoes with high heels are a safety risk and trainers, besides making feet sweat, do not give growing feet the necessary support.

Thank you for your support.



Book Fair

Thank you for supporting our recent book fair. We raised a terrific £211.92 in commission which will be spent on buying books for our classrooms.



School Council

Candidates prepared their manifestos and then presented to their classes. We had the ballot

boxes out in assembly for votes to be cast. The successful candidates are below:

Year 1 - Joseph & Evie

Year 2 - Ben & Darcey

Year 3 - Calum & Eva

Year 4 - Nell & Joshua

Year 5 - Kim & Evie

Year 6 - Tommy, George & Tess

Well done everyone and congratulations to the successful candidates - you have some very important work to do this year.

Hockey Success!



Two teams of year 6 pupils attended the Alsager Quicksticks hockey competition. Excalibur 1 came joint 4th, Excalibur 2 won every match and earned a place in the Sandbach Partnership Finals. On Monday 20th October, the team travelled to Sandbach to compete. We came second with just two points in it! Well done everyone - great result!

Diary Dates

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

4/11/14 School Opens
5/11/14 FOE bonfire cake sale
6/11/14 Y5 visit to Alsager Library (details to follow)
11/11/14 School Council Training @ Christchurch - details for relevant pupils to follow
12/11/14 Governors Meeting (Teaching and Learning) 5.30pm
14/11/14 Children in Need
14/11/14 FOE children's disco
W/B 17/11/14 ANTI-BULLYING WEEK
18/11/14 Internet Safety for Parents - Cheshire Police 6.30-7.30pm
3/12/14 Governors meeting (Strategic Leadership) 5.30pm
5/12/14 FOE Christmas Fair
9/12/14 Juniors Carol Service @ St Mary's (details to follow)
10/12/14 Full Governors Meeting 5pm
19/12/14 SCHOOL CLOSES

5/1/15 SCHOOL OPENS
27/1/15 Y3 Singing Together @ AHS - details to follow
4/2/15 Governors Community meeting 5.30pm
13/2/15 SCHOOL CLOSES

As always, any queries or concerns please see your child's class teacher or another member of staff should they be unavailable.

Yours Faithfully,
Mrs Lise Houldsworth
Head Teacher



Please may I have _____ seats for the Police parent evening on digital safety.

Signed _____