



February 6<sup>th</sup> 2015

## Newsletter 8

Dear Parents/Carers,



### Friends of Excalibur

At their last meeting, FOE planned a number of events - please see 'dates ahead' below.

Although the committee is small, this group works hard to raise funds for the benefit of every child in school. They need your support to run the larger events. Please let your class representative below know if you can be called on to help out by, for example: manning stalls; setting up/clearing up after events; organising snacks at the discos or refreshments at sports days, etc. Thank you.

Reception - Abby Rigby

Y1 - Sarah Cliff & Nikki Burns

Y2 - Sarah Brammell & Gemma Goddard

Y3 - Sarah Brammell & Sarah Sproston

Y4 - Kim Rawlinson & Marci Townson

Y5 - Sakina Shulver & Ali Stevenson

Y6 - Tori Shaw



### The Borrowers

Year 1 to Year 6 have all enjoyed a visit to The New Vic to watch this magical production. I am sure that you have heard all about it. This experience has inspired lots of different learning activities in each class.



### Netball league

The 2015 Alsager primary schools league has started and to date we have won all our matches. Thank you to the children who are representing Excalibur and to staff and parents for committing the time to allow our pupils the chance to participate and shine. Here's hoping

we can keep going and retain the trophy from last year.



### Y3 out and about

Y3 have been busy these last few weeks - they had a second session of Singing Together led by Love Music Trust at Alsager High.

They also went to the Toby Carvery at Talke to attend Chef School. They were taught the importance of healthy eating in a real working restaurant and also enjoyed a nutritious carvery lunch.



### Reception train journey

Reception class caught the train to Crewe as part of their journeys topic. As always, they had a great experience and represented Excalibur admirably.

### Congratulations from the DfE

On 26<sup>th</sup> January, I received a letter from Rt Hon David Laws MP (Minister of State for Schools) which congratulates Excalibur for the improvements in the progress and attainment achieved by disadvantaged pupils in recent years. The letter can be downloaded in full from our website. In the letter David Laws says:

"I would like to congratulate your staff, parents and pupils for their hard work and success...and would encourage you to share your achievements with others.."

So well done everybody!

### Assessment without levels

Mr Cotterill and I attended a conference a few weeks ago where there were several presentations around the national changes to assessment under the new curriculum. We have already begun exploring this as a school but have been gathering information to ensure that our changes maximise the best of what's right for our children. The senior leadership team is beginning to formalise our approach and you can



expect to hear more about this over the coming weeks and months.



### Headteacher Conference

Next week, I shall be attending the annual Cheshire East headteachers' conference for 3 days. The theme of the conference is engaging children in thinking skills, creativity, diversity and learning and includes some high profile speakers. In addition, there are several workshops around school leadership and management. During my absence, school will be in the capable hands of the senior leadership team: Mr Cotterill, Mrs Hilditch, Mrs Tomkinson and Mrs Ling.



### Fairtrade Fortnight 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb-8<sup>th</sup> March

You are probably all aware that Alsager is a Fairtrade town. Fairtrade fortnight will be celebrated around Alsager in various ways. Keep your eyes peeled for events around the village. Remember Fairtrade makes a difference to the lives of some of the poorest people in the developing world.

## **Dates Ahead**

*Please check the school website regularly and remember all letters are put on to the website for your added convenience.*

12/2/15 Y2 class assembly
13/2/15 SCHOOL CLOSSES

23/2/15 SCHOOL OPENS
25/2/15 Y6 perform in AHS 'SEUSSICAL' musical, Y5 audience
27/2/15 FOE DISCO - 5.15pm-6.15pm infants, 6.30-7.30pm juniors
2/3/15 FOE meeting 7.30pm @ The Manor
3/3/15 Reception OUT - Tatton Hall - details to follow
4/3/15 Governors meeting - Learning & teaching 5.30pm
5/3/15 Book Fair arrives
10/3/15 Choral competition - school choir
11/3/15 FOE Curry Night
17/3/15 Y5 visit to Liverpool World Museum - details to follow
19/3/15 Reception visit to Wesley Place - details to follow
19/3/15 Parents Evening 4-7pm
20/3/15 Y1 class assembly
24/3/15 Parents Evening 3.30-5.30pm
25/3/15 Y3 Singing Together concert - Victoria Hall - details to follow
25/3/15 Governors meeting - strategic leadership 5.30pm
26/3/15 NON UNIFORM DAY - bring an Easter egg fine
27/3/15 FOE Easter Extravaganza - 3.30pm - details to follow
1/4/15 Governors Meeting - Full 5pm
2/4/15 Easter Celebration Assembly 9.15am
2/4/15 SCHOOL CLOSSES

20/4/15 SCHOOL OPENS
5-6/5/15 Y4 residential visit to Standon Bowers
6/5/15 Governors - community 5.30pm
11/5/15 Y6 SATS week
22/5/15 SCHOOL CLOSSES

As always, come and see us should you have any queries or concerns.

Yours Faithfully,  
Mrs Lise Houldsworth  
Head Teacher