



March 17th 2015

Newsletter 10



Dear Parents/Carers,

Has Spring sprung? It is beginning to feel like it has. Let's hope we can all get out and about as the weather improves and enjoy some of the glorious countryside around us.

Seussical the musical

Year 6 took part in Alsager High's latest production and had some sessions with music teacher Mr Galley. Our children were brilliant and the whole production by Alsager High was top quality. We were really pleased that Excalibur pupils were able to take part.



Reception have a ball!

Reception class recently went to Tatton Hall in Knutsford where they visited the big house dressed in their finery - they were real little princes and princesses and danced a beautiful waltz.



Sports Round up

Mr Cotterill was very pleased with the football team who took part in a tournament at Crewe Alex recently. The event drew together some strong sides from around the North West and it was great for our team to encounter that level of skill. They won some games and lost some games, but showed great team spirit throughout and all received a medal!

As winners of the Alsager league, our netball team qualified for the wider Sandbach local partnership finals; we came 3rd out of 6 teams and played really well.

At the recent Y5/6 swimming gala, we finished as runners up. Well done everyone who represented Excalibur.

**COMIC
RELIEF**

Comic Relief

Thank you for supporting this great cause - the children looked fabulous and the staff, well let's just say it was an interesting sight. We managed to raise £189.30 so thank you for your donations and generosity.

Book Fair

The book fair was busy as usual and we raised a terrific £362.20 in commission which will be spent directly on purchasing more books for the children in classrooms.



Smokebusters

Y5 recently had a visit from the fire service who delivered their smokebusters programme. Y5 should now be experts in fire safety messages.

Attendance

As we are all aware, good attendance is critical to a child's progress at school. As a whole school our attendance rate has always been given a 'green' rag rating by the local authority, which is super.

Our attendance policy is explained fully on our website where it gives support around illness and attendance, etc. Please could I ask that whenever possible medical appointments are made outside of the school day? As parents ourselves, we know this is sometimes difficult but not impossible. Any time away from school does affect a pupil's learning.

You may have heard recently that the government is changing the criteria for 'persistent absenteeism'. Currently, 85% is the benchmark - the government will be increasing that to 90%. Currently, that would almost double the number of children at Excalibur considered as 'persistent absentees' and who the Education Welfare Officer would need to become involved with.



Polling day

We have been informed last week that the school will be needed for the elections on Thursday May 7th. **Therefore, school will be closed to pupils on Thursday 7th May.**



Help us to keep school safe

We have noticed an increasing number of parents coming in to the school building in the morning. Whilst we operate an open door policy, should you really need to give a message to the class teacher, please be aware that from 8.50am the teachers are with their classes; offering a morning activity and getting brains ready for learning! Please make an appointment before 8.50am or after school if you have more than a quick message to discuss with the class teacher.

Unlike other schools, we don't line up or blow a whistle at 9am because we believe that a calm start to the day sets the tone for learning and we don't like to waste learning time. Please drop your child off promptly at the class door and then leave them to get ready - they are really very good at it!

Furthermore, if you need to visit the office - for safeguarding reasons - do not cut through the school building. It is important that parents use the front doors only; so that we know exactly who is in the building at any time. Remember - dinner money can be paid using parentmail or given to your child to hand in at register time in a named, labelled envelope. Thank you for your co-operation.



Easter eggstravaganza

Quick reminder: our super team of Friends of Excalibur are organising an Easter event on Friday 27th March straight after school. There will be a cup cake competition and other activities. See separate letter. Non uniform day will be Thursday 26th March and if your child wishes to take part the fine will be an Easter egg.

Easter Assembly

We will be holding a simple Easter celebration assembly on Thursday 2nd April at 9.15am (lasting approx 30 mins). We would love for you to join us! Please fill in the slip attached and send to school as soon as possible. Regrettably; due to health and safety, we are limited as to the number of seats we can put out. In previous events, it has been clear that guests have arrived without pre-booking seats! Please ensure that you have your ticket with you on the morning as without it we are unable to accommodate you. Thank you for your support.

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

17/3/15 Y5 visit to Liverpool World Museum - details to follow
19/3/15 Reception visit to Wesley Place
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
30/3/15 Y4 to Manchester Museum - details to follow
1/4/15 Governors Meeting - Full 5pm
2/4/15 Easter Celebration Assembly 9.15am
2/4/15 SCHOOL CLOSES

20/4/15 SCHOOL OPENS
29/4/15 FOE Fashion show
30/4/15 The Killer Mile - details to follow
1/5/15 Y4 class assembly
5-6/5/15 Y4 residential visit to Standon Bowers
6/5/15 Reception to Stockley farm - details to follow
6/5/15 Governors - community 5.30pm
7/5/15 Polling Day - School closed
11/5/15 Y6 SATS week
22/5/15 SCHOOL CLOSES

Please could we have ____ tickets for the Easter celebration assembly.

Pupil _____ Year group _____