



July 17th 2015

## Newsletter 17

Dear Parents/Carers,

Where has the year gone? As the saying goes, "Time flies when you are having fun." Well this year has flown by, so that shows what a fantastic year we have had in school. The end of a summer term is a time for many of us to reflect on achievements and challenges that we have overcome. We have spent time in class talking about the progress that we have all made. It is also a good time to look forward to new challenges that are on the horizon. All of the children have met their new class teacher. Our new Reception class is eager to join us and the Year 6 children are excited but also nervous about their High School.

### Summer Fair

This news has to be the first news that I share with you. Our Summer fair was a resounding success. The weather was very kind; we were all basking in sunshine throughout the evening. This allowed us to carry out our plans to the letter; with a bouncy castle, BBQ, face painting and talent show amongst the many stalls and attractions. A huge thank you to everyone that helped to make the event such a success.

### Friends of Excalibur

Over the year, Friends of Excalibur have worked extremely hard in supporting the school. They are a group of parents and staff who come together for the same goal, to improve the opportunities for the children in our school. Over the year they have held many events such as: Termly school discos, father's day and mother's day present wrap, refreshments for sports day and the Summer and Christmas fair. In total, Friends of Excalibur have raised nearly £2,000 in the summer term alone and for that we are very grateful! I am sure that Friends of Excalibur would agree that anyone is welcome to

join them and support the school. If you are interested then please contact the school and we will point you in the right direction.

### School Council -

I am pleased to inform you that the school council has been successful in raising enough money to fund a shelter box. We will be inviting the Rotary into school in September to present them with a cheque. More news on this to follow! Thank you to everybody who has supported them.

### Guitar Concert

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July, many of our children performed a concert for their parents to showcase their musical talents. The concert was fabulous, with the children working together to create a guitar orchestra. It is amazing how much progress the children have made over the year and they should be very proud of themselves. I must also mention the talented Mr Tidswell, the children love learning guitar at our school and much of this is down to him. Well done Matt and thank you.

### Bikeability

Our Year 5 and Year 4 children have taken part in their Level 1 and Level 2 bikeability training. During the sessions the children learned about basic cycle maintenance and how to keep safe on our roads. The children enjoyed two days of sunshine cycling around the school grounds and on the roads near to the school. All that was missing was a picnic!

### Coding Club

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July, the coding club was joined by Mr Steele and four Year 10 pupils from Alsager High School. We shared some of our own coding with them, some of the games and quizzes that we have developed. They then introduced us to other types of computing coding and explained how this could be used in everyday life. They brought a computer called a Raspberry Pi and also used Minecraft which we learnt how to change by using our programming skills. Thank you to Mr Steele and the High School for supporting us. Hopefully, they will be able to join us again next year.

### Drayton Manor

Also on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July, our year 6 children spent the day at Drayton Manor theme park. They all had a great day out, enjoying the various rides that were on offer. They had obviously not stopped all day as there were lots of weary bodies who arrived back at school at 6:45pm. We subsequently received a letter from the coach provider who praised the children on their behaviour and politeness during the visit. Well done year 6 and thank you to the staff who accompanied them.

### Year 6 Performance

Year 6 have spent the last few weeks: acting, dancing, singing and generally having a jolly old time in preparation for their performance. This year the class performed 'Button Box'. The level of the performances were very high and it was a very entertaining show. They were ably supported by a Year 5 choir. Thank you to all of the parents, staff and friends of the school who helped us to put the performance together.

### Garden Party

Everyone seemed to have a great deal of fun at our annual leaver's garden party. Again, we were lucky with the weather and the buffet was consumed on picnic benches in the sunshine. For part of the evening, the staff and parents formed teams to play rounders against the children. It would be wrong of me to divulge the results but it was nice to see the staff and parents smiling so much at the end of the games! Sorry kids!

### Teddy Bear's picnic

Over the last few weeks we have been welcoming our new reception children into school. This has culminated in a Teddy Bear's picnic where all of the children came together as a class for the first time. Lots of fun was had by all, it was great to see new friendships forming and our next class of children already feeling at home in our school.

### Goodbye's

Unfortunately, we are losing some fabulously dedicated members of staff today.

Mrs Hill who has been part of life at Excalibur for as long as many of us can remember has finally decided that this summer is the right time to hang up her chalkboard! She has dedicated much of her time over the years to ensuring that our school as is good as it can be. Mrs Stevenson is moving onto pastures new, she has been the face and voice of Excalibur since her arrival and she will be greatly missed. Mr Hancock, (Dan) will begin his teacher training in September and will be unable to support us as he has done over the past 3 years. We are in the process of bottling his energy and enthusiasm to hand out when needed! I am sure that you will join us to wish them all the best in the future.

### School reports-

Thank you for your feedback on our reporting process. As always we will review our systems. We have put any explanation to the reporting system on the school website.

### Finally,

I would like to thank all of the children, parents and staff who have been so supportive to me during my time as head teacher at our school. I really feel privileged to have held the position and led such a wonderful school. Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Simon Cotterill, Acting Head Teacher

### Diary Dates Ahead

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

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| 02/9/15 SCHOOL OPENS                 |
| 23/10/15 SCHOOL CLOSES for half term |
| 30/10/15 SCHOOL OPENS                |
| 22/12/15 SCHOOL CLOSES for Christmas |