



28th September 2015

Newsletter 2

Dear Parents/Carers,

I simply cannot believe that we are already 4 weeks in and half way through this half term! School is as busy as ever and everyone is working hard!



Y6 Colomendy Residential

I had the absolute pleasure of accompanying Mrs Tomkinson, Mrs Bundy, Miss Birchenough and 32 pupils to North Wales for 3 days last week as Y6 took part in their residential adventure. The weather was kind to us and the children experienced a wide range of outdoor activities and challenges. We had a great time and we are very proud of the way our children conducted themselves and the way that they tackled the activities; there were examples of bravery, perseverance, kindness, team work and problem solving – just brilliant! So thank you Y6; you were a delight to spend time with and a credit to your parents. Thank you to parents for supporting the visit. And last, but by no means least, thank you to the staff for giving their time freely, away from their own families, to allow this visit to take place.

Y3 Love Music Trust Festival

On 15th September, Y3 spent the morning at Alsager High School working with pupils from other schools at a mass singing rehearsal. Going off the smiles and singing when they returned, a good time was had by all! This is part of a long term project we have signed up to which will culminate in a mass choral performance later in the year.

This is just one of the music projects in which Excalibur chooses to invest; in order to ensure

that our children experience high quality learning and teaching of music.

Other examples of the schools commitment to musical opportunities are: the year- long vocal coaching work Y5 has with Jay Stannard, Y4's term of brass tuition in the Spring term, reception class Barnaby Bear themed project later this year and Y6 supporting Alsager High school with their annual production.



School Council

Thank you to all those children who prepared their manifestos for our recent school council elections. The votes have been cast, counted and verified and I can confirm that our school council for 2015-16 is as follows:

Y1 – Ben & Ellie
Y2 – Ben & Chloe
Y3 – Will & Ruby
Y4 – George & Molly
Y5 – Josh & Layla
Y6 – Thomas & Ellie Mae

Congratulations to the successful candidates!



Staff and Curriculum Development

All staff completed bullying prevention training on the 14th September.

Mrs Tomkinson and Mrs Bundy have also now completed KiVA training with the University of Bangor and will become our KiVA lead teachers. As such, they will be supporting staff in delivering the KiVA bullying prevention programme through school; which is due to start soon once the teaching materials have arrived.

Miss Street and Miss Robinson have attended a reading conference twilight at Wheelock school and Miss Robinson and Miss McArdle will attend a Science (Space) training session at Rode Heath tomorrow evening.

Both Mr Cotterill and I have attended OFSTED training. In addition, I have attended the East Cheshire Association of Primary Headteacher (ECAPH) executive meeting and will continue to do so this year as the

representative for Alsager schools. Mr Cotterill has also completed a Designated Safeguarding Lead workshop with the Safeguarding team.



Friends of Excalibur (FOE)

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM last week. There are several great events in the pipeline, so do keep an eye out for the flyers and letters from FOE. At the AGM the committee members for 2015-16 were confirmed as follows:

Chairperson – Sarah Cliff
Secretary – Nikki Burns
Vice-chair – Gemma Richardson
Treasurer – Yvonne Hilditch

Class representatives

Reception – Sarah Brammell
Y1 – Abby Rigby
Y2 – Nikki Burns
Y3 – Sarah Brammell
Y4 – Sarah Sproston
Y5 – Marci Townson/Kim Rawlinson
Y6 – Ali Stevenson

Remember – you do not have to be a committee member to come along to meetings. All help with events is gratefully received and is in fact necessary to help FOE run the events for our children...so please don't be shy! Next meeting is 16th November 7.30pm @ The Manor.

Staffing

We are pleased to welcome Miss Rebecca Kirby to the Excalibur team. Following interviews, Miss Kirby has been successfully appointed as an apprentice teaching assistant and will be working alongside Mrs Newbould and Mrs Rogers in reception class – she is sure to be very busy!



Sports round up

We are thrilled that for the second year running we have been awarded the Schools Games gold award. Only 3 schools in the

Sandbach partnership have achieved this level. Thank you to all staff, volunteers and local sports clubs for helping us to gain this recognition of our strong commitment to sport.

Already this year, we have sent teams to the Sandbach partnership Y3/4 football (tonight!) and a team of juniors to the cross country event at Alsager High.

Santander have donated sports kits and equipment to the school and our strong, supportive partners Alsager Football Club (AFC) have provided a brand new football kit for our 2015-16 team. Thank you to both organisations.



And Finally..

The children have been busy practising their harvest songs for Friday's harvest assembly, so if you have a ticket and are joining us you are bound to enjoy!

A quick reminder that we are not taking tinned produce this year, but are asking for monetary donations which we would like to send to the Save the Children Syrian crisis appeal. Thank you.



Best wishes,

Mrs Lise Houldsworth

Headteacher

Diary Dates

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

29-9-15 Y4 to Apedale Mining Museum
30-9-15 Y6 to AHS Samba drumming
2-10-15 Harvest assembly (tickets needed)
5/6-10-15 Life Education Van – details to follow
7 & 8-10-15 Y4 One World week drumming
7-10-15 ACT school council reps visit to Westminster
8-10-15 Book Fair arrives
9-10-15 Y2 Alsager walk
9-10-15 FOE Children's discos
10-10-15 One World Week festival in Alsager
15-10-15 Parent/teacher consultations 4-7pm – letter to follow
19-10-15 Y6 First aid training
20-10-15 Y4 & Y5 First aid training
20-10-15 Y1 & Y2 Fluenz nasal spray – details from school nursing team will follow
20-10-15 Parent/teacher consultations 3.30-5.30pm – letter to follow
21-10-15 YR, Y1,Y2,Y3 First aid training
21-10-15 Governors meeting – Community 5.30pm
23-10-15 School closes for half term

3-11-15 School opens
5-11-15 FOE bonfire cake sale
11-11-15 Excalibur's 50 th school dinner and open evening reunion (details to follow)
16-11-15 Anti-Bullying Week
16-11-15 FOE meeting @ The Manor 7.30pm
25-11-15 Governors meeting – Strategic Leadership 5.30pm
4-12-15 FOE Christmas Fair 5.30-7.30pm
5-12-15 FOE Christmas party night @ Bank Corner – see flyer
9-12-15 Governors meeting – Teaching & Learning 5.30pm
16-12-15 Full governors meeting 5.30pm
22-12-15 School closes for Christmas