



9th October 2015

Newsletter 3

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy few weeks in school! It is one of the privileges of my job that I have the opportunity to regularly take prospective parents on a tour of our school. The range and quality of learning experiences taking place through the day is always gratifying to observe, as is the pupils' engagement and attitude to learning. Thank you all.

Football league



We have played our first match in the Alsager primary football league. Well done to the team who played and won in a match with Cranberry Academy – final score 7-0. Super sportsmanship was shown – let's hope we can build on this great start.

Y4 are sent down the mine!



As part of their study of Victorians and particularly the life of children in this period, Year 4 took an educational visit to Apedale Mine recently. The day really helped to bring the learning to life and will be built upon back in school. Here's what some of our children thought:

"I think it was brilliant, a great experience and we could keep some coal!" Rhys

"The trip was amazing. It was great to go down the mine – the first time I'd ever been down one." Callum

"It was like a Victorian mine would have been like. It was great!" Charlie

Did you hear the drums?



Alsager schools work in partnership with one another and we were very pleased to once more receive an invitation from the high school to take part in a drumming workshop with their music department. This was thoroughly enjoyed by the Y6 children who took part:

"We enjoyed the African drumming because we all took part and learnt to play different instruments, such as African drums, shakers and other things. We also learnt a song with the music we made."

Y4 worked with Art Brasil for two mornings this week learning samba drumming. You can catch their performance at Alsager's One World festival at the high school this Saturday 10th October. Excalibur pupils are due to perform on the stage at 12.30.

Safeguarding

We work hard to minimise risks to our pupils. Please could you support us by observing the following?

- Do not park on the zig zag lines;
- Walk on the pathways, not down the drive;
- Do not use the school car park when collecting children from after school clubs;
- Note: pupils are supervised by school from 8.50am. We are concerned that there are a few children being regularly dropped off unsupervised as early as 8.20am.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Life Education Van



Thanks to funding from Friends of Excalibur, our children were able to access learning in the Life Education van this week. This is a high quality resource which builds on learning in personal, social and health education year on year in a very engaging, exciting way. The guest educator delivering the workshops was very impressed with our children's knowledge and understanding and our own teachers reported that the children had a good recall of their learning in the van

last year. Our children also told us how they enjoyed the sessions:

"I liked the night lights in the sky." Isla

"We learnt to keep our bodies healthy." Bronte

"I liked all of it; I liked meeting Harold the giraffe." Xanthe

Harvest



The children sang and spoke really well in our harvest assembly last week and we were very proud of them. Thank you so much for your kind donations; we have sent £185.50 to Save the Children's Syrian Crisis appeal. After speaking with our pupils about the images they are seeing at the moment on TV screens; I know that they will be pleased that they have made a contribution to helping children in other places in the world.

We know that a few parents/carers were disappointed that they were unable to attend the assembly as the 120 seats were already taken. (Tickets were distributed on a first come basis and limited to 2 per request). The school office had much additional work load due to emails, phone calls and requests about tickets. As a school, we are currently reviewing this and appreciate your understanding and feedback.

After consultation with many Cheshire East schools, there are very few who offer the opportunity to parents/carers to attend harvest assemblies. Those that do tend to limit this by restricting the invitation to grandparents only or just reception class parents, for example.

At Excalibur we believe in an open door policy; we love to come together as a whole school; we love parents/carers to join us, but we are restricted by the size of the hall, the number of seats we have and - as I'm sure you will have seen - a very busy, efficient front office. Harvest and Easter are not performances, but short assemblies. Curriculum commitments mean we cannot repeat assemblies. All parents are invited to their child's class assembly during the academic year. For our Easter assembly, we are hoping to be able to go to St. Mary's church

which has a larger capacity. We welcome any feedback which may help for the future.

Excalibur visits Parliament!



Four members of our school council took the train to London on Wednesday to tour parliament. They had a superb visit and saw democracy in action first hand. Thank you to Mr Cotterill for accompanying them. The children will now recount their visit for the rest of the school in an assembly.

Safer schools & young people partnership - latest news

In August, NSPCC and O2 launched a nationwide programme of workshops to give parents and families the skills and knowledge to understand the internet as children do. The partnership will also offer expert advice online and there will be a new online safety helpline for parents and from trained staff in O2 stores.

O2 & NSPCC online safety helpline

You can get advice from our experts on anything you're not sure about, including:

- setting up parental controls on your computer or other devices
- help adjusting privacy settings
- understanding social networks
- concerns about online gaming

Call online safety helpline

Have a question about parental controls or concern about a social network your child uses? Whatever it is, our expert advisors are here to help.

0808 8005002

And Finally..

I look forward to seeing you at parent/teacher consultations next week and thank you for your continued support.

Yours Faithfully,

Mrs Fise 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 set.

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
21-10-15 Y5 to Woodcocks' Well
23-10-15 School closes for half term

3-11-15 School opens
5-11-15 FOE bonfire cake sale
9-11-15 Y1 visit to Reaseheath
16-11-15 Anti-Bullying Week
16-11-15 FOE meeting @ The Manor 7.30pm
17-11-15 Y3 visit to Chester
18-11-15 Excalibur's 50 th school dinner and open evening reunion (details to follow) DATE CHANGED
19-11-15 Individual photographs
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 CANCELLED
9-12-15 Governors meeting – Teaching & Learning 5.30pm
11-12-15 Infants Christmas celebration – details to follow
15-12-15 Juniors Christmas performance – details to follow
16-12-15 Full governors meeting 5.30pm
22-12-15 School closes for Christmas