



22nd January 2016

## Newsletter 11

Dear Parents/Carers,



### Sports Hall Champions

We took a team of Y5/6 children to the Alsager indoor sports hall athletics competition and I am pleased to announce that Excalibur won the event and earned another trophy for our cabinet. The children were superb in their behaviour, attitude and performance. Well done everyone – we are proud of you!



### History Workshops

Year 2 and Year 3 enjoyed a sparkling start to their topics with a visit from Yellow Brick Road workshops. Each class took part in drama and speaking and listening activities. They had a fun, engaging learning experience!

Veronica and Alison (the visiting workshop leaders) commented, "Everything is made available for our comfort. The front of house staff are outstanding. The children are keen to join in every activity. The staff are humorous and willing to join in. We love this place."



### Holiday Dates

We are aware of a number of external websites which are providing information on school holiday dates; these sites are providing INCORRECT dates. For details on Excalibur's school dates, please visit the school's website, or contact the school office.



### Fairtrade Fortnight

The Alsager Fairtrade Steering Group are organising several events for fairtrade fortnight this year.

Some of our children will be taking part in a badge design competition.

In addition, the steering group will be holding a special event on 27<sup>th</sup> February – see below for details:

*It will be at Wesley Place Church on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February from 10 a m – 1 p m. This year's theme for National Fairtrade Fortnight focuses on 'Breakfast' so we will be serving an 'Elfie' Breakfast of bacon or sausage baps, {Hall Farm bacon and sausage, Bakehouse bread} Toast, jam, marmalade or honey, [Bakehouse bread and fairly traded spreadable goods.] All drinks served will be fairly traded. These will be available from 10 till 12 – 30. There will be stalls to browse around and goods to buy. You will also be able to buy or order your Fair trade Meaningful Easter Eggs from our fairtrade stall.*

### Year 4 Class Assembly

Year 4 held their class assembly for us all on Thursday. They did brilliantly and we hope that parents/carers who joined us enjoyed sharing some of Y4's learning so far this year. They were certainly in good voice. Thank you Year 4 ☺



### Staff Development

All teaching staff have completed two twilight sessions on Safer Handling training over the last two weeks.

I have attended the annual Cheshire East HR workshop. Mr Cotterill is working on the Cheshire East Deputy Headteacher Executive committee.



Year group teachers in Alsager have met across the Alsager schools to share good practice in writing and to moderate standards across our schools.

Miss Street and Mrs Tomkinson attended an update briefing regarding the changes to end of statutory key stage assessment.

Miss Kirby and Miss Hilditch have updated their safeguarding training.

### **Life without levels...save the date..**

You may have heard lots in the news about the government move to scrap the old national curriculum levels. They want schools to develop their own individual systems for in-house assessment. At Excalibur, over the last six months, staff and governors have been working hard to develop systems which we feel will: support our ethos and high expectations; be fit for purpose for our teachers and meaningful and relevant for our pupils and parents. We will be explaining the background to the changes and some of the new terminology teachers may use to talk to you about your child's progress at a short briefing for parents on 7<sup>th</sup> March at 5pm. More details will follow nearer the time.

### **And finally..**

Thank you for your continued support. As always, please come in and see us should you have any query or concern.

Best wishes,  
Mrs Lise Houldsworth  
Head Teacher

## **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.

25-01-15 Y4 Manchester Museum visit – details to follow
29-01-16 Artist in residence – 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary
05-02-16 Artist in residence – 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary
05-02-16 Y5 vocal performance @ St Mary's – details to follow
09-02-16 Safer Internet Day

09-02-16 Jon Mayhew author visit to Y5
10-02-16 Y4,5,6 Be cyberwise workshops – details to follow
10-02-16 Governors meeting – community 5.30pm
12-02-16 School closes for half term

22-02-16 School opens
24-02-16 AHS Hairspray performance – Y6 – details to follow
26-02-16 FOE children's discos – details to follow
02-03-16 Governors meeting – strategic leadership 5.30pm
02-03-16 FOE Mothers' day gift wrap (for 3 days) – details to follow
07-03-16 Assessment information briefing for parents – details to follow
14-03-16 Science week
16-03-16 Governors meeting – teaching and learning 5.30pm
17-03-16 Parent/Teacher meetings – details to follow 4-7pm
21-03-16 Parent/teacher meetings – details to follow 3.30-5.30pm
22-03-16 Y3 perform @ Victoria Hall – details to follow
23-03-16 Easter service @ St.Mary's – details to follow
23-03-16 Reception Barney Bear Festival @ Victoria Hall – details to follow
23-03-16 Full governors meeting 5pm
24-03-16 School closes for Easter

11-04-16 School opens
12-04-16 Y4 Standon Bowers – details to follow
14-04-16 Class photographs
02-05-16 May Bank Holiday
09-05-16 Year 6 SATS week
23-05-16 Sports Week
25-05-16 Governors community meeting 5.30pm
27-05-16 School closes