



Delivering an outstanding learning experience for all children so they flourish and thrive; enabling them to achieve their own individual excellence.

8th January 2021
Newsletter 8

Dear Parents/Carers,

Although this week hasn't quite been the return to school that we all expected, I am incredibly proud to say that, despite the ever changing landscape, learning at Excalibur has not been affected. The response from parents, children and staff has been tremendous. What a wonderful community we are part of!

I will be sending weekly newsletters to update you about everything that is happening both in and out of school. We will also be celebrating stars of the week. The children in school will receive their certificates as normal. For children who are home learning, a postcard will be sent.

Reception

This week, our Reception class have been reading the books; 'One Snowy Day', 'One Snowy Night' and 'Lost and Found'. The children have really enjoyed learning about penguins and have done some amazing artwork, drawing and labelling them. The children have found some really interesting facts out about penguins too.

It has been great to hear all about the children's snow experiences and watch the children at school play in the snow. What a fabulous week of learning from our Reception class. Well done.

★ **Star from near: Jack - For being a good friend and having a fantastic positive attitude.**

★ **Star from afar: Jessica – For superb engagement with remote learning.**

Year 1

In Year 1, the children have been working so hard. They have been following a series of lessons based on the story the 'Monkeys and Hats'. A marvellous selection of work, videos and photos have been uploaded to Seesaw. It has been brilliant! In maths, the children have looked at 2D and 3D shapes. They

have named, sorted and made patterns with shapes and have found out about their properties. The children have also enjoyed learning some new songs using British Sign Language. The children have particularly loved 'I am a Robot' this week which had some incredible dance movements to match. Keep up the great work!

★ **Star from near: Gracie - For being a good friend and having a fantastic positive attitude.**

★ **Star from afar: Emma – For making a superb effort with all her learning at home and retelling a version of the 'Monkeys and Hats' beautifully.**

Year 2

This week in Year 2 it's been rather busy. Our children have learned about Philip Astley, father of the modern-day circus. The children were encouraged to practise juggling with scarves as they fall more slowly than juggling balls. The Queen's Hat by Steve Antony captured the children's imaginations as they wrote about the hat drifting and twirling over the sites of London.

★ **Star from near: Harriet - For great multiplication in maths.**

★ **Star from afar: Cerys - For being so enthusiastic about remote learning and for practising juggling.**

Year 3

During their first week of online learning, Year 3 have been absolute super stars! In maths, they have been learning to multiply and divide by 8. On Thursday, they had group reading comprehension sessions via Microsoft Teams. Thank you to everybody who was able to join in! They have also started to compose pieces of music using body percussion and using Purple Mash. It has been a wonderful week! Keep up all your hard work Year 3!

★ **Star from near: Alexia – For her kindness and helpfulness**

★ **Star from afar: Cooper - For superb engagement with remote learning, particularly in science.**

Year 4

This week Miss Taylor and Miss Hilditch have been so impressed with the engagement and enthusiasm from year 4! The children have been using their knowledge of multiplication facts to help them to build up to using the grid method for multiplying larger numbers together. In English, they have been

using expanded noun phrases and prepositional sentence starters to help create interesting, descriptive sentences ready for the setting description that they will be creating next week. The afternoons have been a hive of activity as well! The children have been investigating food chains in science and setting the *ground work* for their geography topic by exploring how the earth beneath our feet is structured. It has been great to see everyone staying active whilst at home, whether it be by taking part in PE activities or by going out for walks with family. Well done everyone, keep it up!

★ **Star from near: Erin JM- For always having a positive attitude to her work and ensuring that all work is completed to the highest standard**

★ **Star from afar: Harrison M - For having a wonderful attitude to learning, being enthusiastic towards all tasks set and challenging himself with the harder tasks.**

Year 5

This week, Year 5 have been learning about prime numbers and factors plus square and cube numbers. The children have worked remarkably well and have persevered with some tricky work. In English, they have written a letter from the perspective of the protagonist of our class reading book, Michael. After spending months stranded upon a tropical island, Michael finds a washed up coke bottle on the beach. He decides to write a letter to his parents letting them know that he is alive and clues about how they can find and rescue him.

★ **Star from afar: - George - For being so engaged with your online learning, answering and asking questions. Keep it up George. You're amazing**

★ **Star from near: - Sammy – For having an excellent attitude to his learning and settling in quickly to a new routine at school.**

Year 6

This week, Year 6 have worked hard across all subjects. In English, they completed their setting descriptions, the first piece of writing linked with their book focus: *the Invention of Hugo Cabret*. In maths, they applied their knowledge of area to find the areas of rectilinear shapes. Also, through group Teams sessions, the children worked diligently to get a grasp of the new concept of algebra.

As part of their study of *Lights, Camera, Action*, our Year 6 children have improved their geographical knowledge of countries around the world with a focus on some international movie studios. In science,

following on from their investigation into heart rate prior to Christmas, they learnt about how the heart works. They also practised their juggling skills in PE, explored compound time in music and looked into the importance of money matters in PSHE. Keep up the great work, Year 6.

★ **Star from near: Ellie - For her fabulous attitude and being an all round star!**

★ **Star from afar: Liam - for outstanding work ethic and commitment to all aspects of his learning from home, particularly the comprehension responses. Well done.**

Donating devices

We received a lovely phone call from a very generous parent who has donated a device for home learning to the school. This is hugely appreciated as it means that children who don't have access to devices or who are sharing devices can access remote learning. Many thanks for your kindness.

And finally

We are keen to get our remote learning provision right for our children. If you have any feedback that you would like to share, we would welcome your comments. Please email us on contact@excalibur.cheshire.sch.uk

If you require any further assistance in any other matter, please do not hesitate in contacting us.

Mrs Jones
Head Teacher