



22nd February 2016

Newsletter 13

Dear Parents/Carers,



Welcome back. We hope that you enjoyed the half term break. We are pleased to be back as the days begin to warm and the light lasts a little longer each day. We have been talking about the signs of Spring and how this brings us hope. A short half term lies before us, as Easter is early this year – but as ever we have such a lot to fit in to our busy school days at Excalibur.



Netball Triumph

We are thrilled once more to announce that after playing each primary school in Alsager, we have emerged as the overall winners of the Alsager Primary Netball League 2016 – we retain the shield for the third year running. Well done everyone! It is clearly great to be successful, but also the sportsmanship and conduct of our pupils should also be commended.

Assessment Information Meeting for parents Y1 – Y6

As stated on the last newsletter, we will be holding an assessment information evening for parents on **Monday March 7th at 4.45pm**. The session will give you an understanding of the national agenda as regards assessment as well as the systems and terminology we have developed at Excalibur. For Y2 and Y6, we will also run through the format of the statutory assessments at the end of each key stage. The meeting for Y2 and Y6 parents/carers will be in their respective classrooms. For Y1,3,4,5 we will meet in the hall. We expect that the session will last no longer than 30 minutes. It would be really helpful if you could fill in the slip attached to

this letter so that we know how many seats and information packs to prepare. ***Please note that these meetings are for parents, not the pupils – Thank you.***

Governor Parent Election

Thank you to the four parents/carers who stood as candidates in the recent parent governor election. Thank you also to everyone who voted. It is wonderful to know that we have an engaged, supportive and committed parent/carer body. Congratulations to Mrs Sarah Brammell who joins Excalibur's board of governors.

Friends of Excalibur events...coming up

Keep your eyes peeled for further information from FOE's....

29-02-16 FOE meeting 7.30pm @ The Manor
W/b 29-02-16 FOE Mother' Day gift wrap
18-03-16 FOE Easter Extravaganza



You said...we did

At parent/carer teacher consultations, we will be once more distributing our annual parent/carer questionnaire. It is very useful for us to have feedback and this is always reflected upon at a strategic level with governors. Please do complete the survey – it helps us to know what is working well and what we can/should develop further. A few examples of the ideas from the last couple of years are:

You said – the drive is dark when leaving events at the night.

We did – made budgetary provision to enable us to put lighting and electricity down the drive – work to be completed in 2016.

You said – music provision seems excellent.
We did – ensured our commitment to special projects continued into 2015-16, extending this to include Early Years.

You said – dinner staff should communicate more with teachers.

We did – establish half termly meetings with the senior leadership team and midday assistants to discuss any specific issues or developments from lunchtimes.

You said – a mid-year written report?
 We did – now that we are embedding assessment without levels into our school, we are offering an information evening for all parents. From next academic year will be introducing a pupil mid-year report card.

You said – more after school clubs for Y2
 We did – Y2 have been able to access football, homework, multisports and coding clubs so far this year.

Of course, as you can see from the parent views section of our website, you also gave us much positive feedback about what we do well, what works for your child and what we should keep doing. So, your feedback is very much valued and we do hope that you can complete the survey again for 2016.

World Book Day – 3rd March 2016

It's that time of year again! Following feedback - as it is two years since we dressed up - the children are invited to come to school dressed as a favourite book character (no football kits please).

In addition, if you would like to, we are asking each child to donate a book to school. We will provide a special dedication sheet for them to complete and stick into the book; so that future year groups can enjoy the book and see who originally donated it to the school.



And finally..

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Faithfully,
 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.

24-02-16 AHS Hairspray performance Y6 & Y5
02-03-16 Governors meeting – strategic leadership 5.30pm
02-03-16 FOE Mothers' day gift wrap (for 3 days) – details to follow
03-03-16 World Book Day Book Fair at Excalibur
07-03-16 Assessment information briefing for parents
07-03-16 Y2 to Alsager Fire Station
10-03-16 Reception to Ford Green Hall
14-03-16 Science week
16-03-16 Governors meeting – teaching and learning 5.30pm
17-03-16 Parent/Teacher meetings
17-03-16 Y2 to Staircase House
18-03-16 Y1 to Spaceport – details to follow
21-03-16 Parent/teacher meetings
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
05-05-16 School closed for polling
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

Assessment information session

Please could we book _____ seats for the assessment meeting.

Name of child: _____

Year Group: _____