



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

29th January 2021
Newsletter 11

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here we are at the end of another week of fabulous learning.

I just wanted to take the opportunity to say thank you to all our wonderful parents and carers. You have done an amazing job in supporting your children in their home learning. I know that this will not have been easy with many of you juggling the demands of your own jobs. I appreciate every effort that you have made to ensure your children have attended Teams calls, watched pre-recorded videos and completed work set. You all deserve stars certificates!

Reception

This week, our Reception children have been incredibly busy again. Their week started by travelling the world using the story 'Poles Apart'. As well as visiting different countries, the children thought about different types of transport. They learned about polar bears and drew and wrote facts about them. The children have also conducted an exciting experiment to investigate why polar bears don't feel the cold. In music, the children have explored tempo, composing their own rhythms and evaluating different ones. Our Reception class have also been thinking about what is good and bad for the world. What a fantastic week of learning in Reception!

★ **Star from near: Elijah – For settling back to school incredibly well and for having a super week.**

★ **Star from afar: Ben – For his fantastic effort and participation in RWI.**

Year 1

The children have had a busy week in Year 1. They have been learning about hearing and how sounds can be used to warn people. They have also been thinking about hygiene and how we should look after our teeth. In English, the children have continued their writing based on the story of 'Lost and Found'. This week, the children have learnt how to include speech in a sentence. They have written their own versions of 'Lost and Found', often injecting original ideas of their own!

The stories have been absolutely fabulous! In Maths, the children have looked at number bonds and how they can help us when adding the ones in number sentences. Cosmic Yoga and Go Noodle dances have also been eagerly enjoyed! What a super week, Year 1. Well done for all your effort!

★ **Star from near: Harper – For brilliant work in maths.**

★ **Star from afar: Symphony – For her enthusiasm and positive attitude towards all aspects of home learning, but especially in English.**

Year 2

This week Year 2 have shown their artistic side again. They drew teddy bears by looking carefully at the shapes. On Wednesday afternoon, they enjoyed a walk around Cardiff, to see the motte and bailey castle, courtesy of Google maps. Next week, they are off to Belfast! Well done, Year 2.

★ **Star from near: Jack W – Your enthusiasm for all learning**

★ **Star from afar: Charlie - For the effort he is putting into his work and for the super quality of his work.**

Year 3

This week in maths, Year 3 have been continuing to use number lines for division. They have also been learning how they can use partitioning to help them to solve division problems. In their English sessions, the children have been reading "The Emperor's Egg". They have explored emotions and feelings by using a drama activity to act out the role of a male Emperor penguin taking care of its egg. In art, the children have been learning all about adding shading and tone to their sketches and have created some wonderful pieces of artwork! In addition to this, in science, Year 3 have been learning about light and the differences between night and day. It has been wonderful to see the fantastic work that Year 3 have been doing this week. Well done, Year 3!

★ **Star from near: Sam – For being a super star all round.**

★ **Star from afar: Sienna A - For always being ready to learn, asking and answering questions and trying her best.**

Year 4

In English this week, our Year 4 children have been working incredibly hard in creating an emotive and descriptive piece of writing based on the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The children had to imagine that they were in the city of Pompeii at the time of the disaster. A difficult task! Miss Taylor and Miss Hilditch were really

impressed by the range of language features that the children had used and emotion included. The class had thought carefully about how it would feel to leave their homes behind. In maths, Year 4 have been exploring the way in which the area of shapes can be measured. The children have worked hard to solve some tricky mastery problems. Well done Year 4. You have worked hard throughout the week.

★ **Star from near: Oliver – For super creative writing.**

★ **Star from afar: Josh – for putting in such effort to all his work.**

Year 5

This week, Year 5 have been learning how to divide numbers and then interpret remainders - a tricky area of maths that they have worked incredibly well at. In English, they have been practising finding and writing features of a balanced argument to help them with their writing task next week. They will be discussing whether it was right for children to be evacuated during the war. In other areas of the curriculum, the children have been learning all about stars and constellations. The children have also been comparing two historical sources - Neville Chamberlain's declaration of war and Adolf Hitler's speech, given just before Germany invaded Poland. We thought about how they were different and the children began to consider why that would be the case which led to a discussion about bias in sources. In Computing, the children began working on their timeline PowerPoint, using action buttons to navigate between slides. It really has been a jam-packed week in Year 5!

★ **Star from near: Jacob – For settling into school life so well this week and working so hard.**

★ **Star from afar: Ellie S - for always pushing yourself and trying the extension activities. You always stay behind and ask if you need help. Brilliant, Ellie. That shows real independence.**

Year 6

In their fourth week of online learning, Year 6 have been extremely busy. In maths, they have learnt about ratio and proportion and have worked on some reasoning and problem solving questions. In English, following on from their comprehension on Philippe Petit, the children began to practise the skills needed to write a third person narrative piece about a hi-wire walk between New York's twin towers. Throughout this week, the children have been filling in their own diet and exercise diaries, linked with their science topic. This has culminated in a written discussion of their findings. Over their two PE sessions this week, the children have secured their sporting fundamentals through a lesson with SCNW and have continued to practise their Cooper

Run, jogging as far as they can in eight minutes. This week in computing, Year 6 are beginning to work towards the creation of a stop-motion animation. This week's lesson focussed on critiquing existing videos and then planning their own. In French, after two weeks of building the skills needed, the children were challenged to write about their dream home. What a great week of learning Year 6!

★ **Star from near: Evie – For having such a superb attitude to all aspects of school life!**

★ **Star from afar: Ben - For outstanding effort in all subjects and for great contributions to group sessions.**

Rudolph Run

We are pleased to announce that children from Excalibur raised a superb £988 for St. Luke's Cheshire Hospice through their Rudolph Run prior to Christmas. Many thanks to everyone who donated and well done to all members of Excalibur, both children and staff, who took part.

Children's Mental Health Week

As you may be aware, next week is Children's Mental Health Week. Look out for some fabulous activities in each of the classes to support this.

There are also a range of resources that can be found on our Emotional Health and Wellbeing page:

<http://www.excalibur.cheshire.sch.uk/page/emotional-health-and-wellbeing/67105>

And finally

We are keen to get our remote learning provision right for our children. Please continue to provide us with any feedback that you would like to share 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**