



24th March 2016

Newsletter 15

Dear Parents/Carers,

This term has flown by! Thank you to everyone who attended the recent parent/teacher consultations – we hope that you found them useful and enjoyed sharing your child's progress and successes. Once the completed parent questionnaires have been collated and evaluated by the governors, we will give you an overview of the results in the next newsletter.



Staff Development

Teachers enjoyed a twilight training session entitled 'Push Back the Desks' last week. This was based on using drama techniques to engage children in writing; lots of ideas to be taken back into the learning at our school.



Y2 visit to Staircase House

As a 'fantastic finish' to their topic, Y2 visited Staircase House in Stockport last week. They really enjoyed themselves and the day brought the subject to life; creating some indelible memories. Here's what some of the children said:

"I liked it when I was being King Charles – it was the best thing ever!"

"I liked making wattle and daub...out of this world."

"I liked looking at the ancient Tudor house."

"Exciting...fabulous...amazing."

Message from the NHS East Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Free health app for Cheshire East parents launched

An innovative new health app for parents and carers of children aged 0-5 has been launched by the local NHS and [Cheshire East Council](#).

The [CATCH app](#), which can also be used by expectant parents, is now available for free on the App Store for iPhones and iPads and Play Store for Androids and tablets.

The app was developed by [NHS Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group \(CCG\)](#), [NHS South Cheshire CCG](#) and the council to provide:

- NHS-approved health advice
- highly localised information about healthcare services and support groups available in Cheshire East
- timely notifications about key health dates, such as childhood immunisations
- an interactive map of Cheshire East healthcare services, such as GP surgeries, dentists and pharmacies.

The app is also highly personalised, as parents can input their child's date of birth and it will only present health information and reminders that are relevant to their child's age.

A Question of Faith Y3/4

On Monday 14th March our year 3 and 4 children took part in a 'Question of Faith Day' led by the leaders of the churches in Alsager. The day started with an introduction to the team followed by looking at the sequence of events around the Easter Story. The children then took part in an Easter egg hunt and completed some art work around the Easter story.



Year 1 visit to Spaceport

Year 1 took a coach to Liverpool last week to visit Spaceport. They had a wonderful time and experienced an inspirational journey through space. I will let them tell you:

"I liked everything, the film in the planetarium was the best."

"I liked making an alien out of play dough."

"I liked the film on the ceiling."

Fundraising

Thank you for your support with Sports Relief and also Friends of Excalibur's Easter Extravaganza. I know the children enjoyed both events. We collected £153.00 for Sports Relief and Friends raised £442.91 for school funds.



Y4 Brass Concert

I am sure that parents/carers will join me in praising Year 4 for their recent whole class brass concert. It was a real pleasure to see how much the children had learnt in their lessons in only 10 sessions and also how well they communicated and worked together to perform in an assemble – congratulations!

Science Week – Lorelli Wilson

To top off science week here at Excalibur, we had a visit from Lorelli Wilson who taught the children all about science using everyday household materials in a special assembly – the children were enthralled. Lorelli then went on to spend the morning with Y6 where she continued to show us how exciting the learning in science is!

Safeguarding

Can we please remind parents/carers- **please do not pick up other people's children without informing the school.** We have some very well meaning parents/carers, but there are firm safeguarding procedures in place and the children know that they are to return to school if whoever usually picks them up is not there. This is particularly relevant in the older year groups when parents/carers start to give their children a little more independence. **School must know the arrangements made** – thank you in anticipation.

Reception and Year 3 perform at the Victoria Hall



We are very proud of both classes who took part this week in two separate massed concerts in Stoke. Both concerts were the culmination of projects with Love Music Trust that the school has chosen to fund. Well done to everyone involved.

Staffing News

As reception parents/carers already know, Mrs Rogers has had a beautiful baby girl – Emilia May - who was born on 10th March. Mum, Dad, brothers and baby are all doing well!

Congratulations also to Mr Cotterill, who has been successfully appointed as Head Teacher of Manor Park Primary School in Knutsford from September 2016. Obviously, we will be sorry to see him go but wish him well and know that he will enjoy and relish the challenges ahead in his new role.

Excalibur will start the recruitment process for our new deputy headteacher immediately after Easter and I will, of course, keep you up to date. Whole school staffing arrangements for September 2016 will be finalised in early June as usual.

And finally..

Have a wonderful Easter break and we will see you back here on 11th April.

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.

24-03-16 School closes for Easter

11-04-16 School opens

12-04-16 Y4 Standon Bowers

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

07-06-16 School opens

13-06-16 Phonics screening week Y1

23-06-16 School closed for EU referendum

24-06-16 Road Safety Y6 with the fire service

28-06-16 Alsager town sports

05/07-07-16 Y6 production

08-07-16 End of Year Reports

12-07-16 Y6 family garden party

19-07-16 Y6 leavers assembly

19-07-16 School closes for Summer
