

What a short half term that was!

On Monday morning, several members of our school staff came into school proudly wearing their Chester half marathon T-shirts and medals! Mr Barnes, Miss Roberts, Miss Rowland, Miss Keegan, Mrs Webster and Mr Bowles are truly inspirational – the staff have trained for this event for some time and showed true grit and resilience especially when running in the heat on Sunday. Mrs Barratt supported the event by volunteering to marshall, whilst encouraging all of the runners in the race. Well done staff – you truly are inspirational! A big well done to any parents or carers who also tackled the half marathon – no mean feat and I am in awe of anyone who can run further than 100m! A huge well done to those children also proudly displaying their medals and t-shirts on Monday for the Chester Fun Run, you are all incredible!

Y5 proudly presented their assembly to parents, not once, but twice on Wednesday! I heard that all of the children participated really well and lots of parents gave positive feedback; it was lovely to see so many of the Y5 parents attending! A big thank you to the Y5 children and staff for putting this together!

I also need to say well done to all of the children in Y3/4LD! This week, over the course of 2 days, they welcomed in some teacher candidates who each taught 3/4LD for approximately 30 minutes each. Miss Tyrer and I were really impressed with how well the children engaged with the new faces – they demonstrated good listening, active engagement in their learning and I can assure you that they all now know lots more facts and information about rainforests! As a thank you to 3/4LD, Miss Tyrer and I awarded the children with a little extra play today!

Miss Tyrer and Mrs Edwards hosted a Y5 parent meeting on Wednesday after school to share information about the Y6 residential to Condover next academic year. Hopefully parents found the meeting informative and if you were unable to attend, Miss Tyrer has added the information to the school website and will also be added to Seesaw. To secure a place for your child, please ensure the 1st payment of £19.50 is paid by 6th June. Hopefully lots of the Y5 children will attend the residential next year – my name is already on the list to go, too!

On the note of residential, Mrs Dutton would like to remind current Y3 parents that the deposit for booking a space on next year's Y4 residential is due by 30th May!

Y1 & Y2 had a fabulous visit to Chester Zoo! The children saw lots of animals and I heard that the behaviour of the children was brilliant too! Lots of children have told me about their favourite animals or areas of the zoo and I am so pleased an enjoyable day out was had by all. Thank you to the parents too, that accompanied the trip; without your help these type of trips would not be unable to take place!

Governors held a meeting on Tuesday evening and there were lots of strategic and operational matters being discussed. As part of this meeting governors noted an increase in the number of unauthorised holiday requests that we are seeing in school. As a reminder, the government and local authority are very clear: holiday requests cannot be authorised and, as a school, we are required to report requests to the local authority by return, who then deem whether a fine will be issued. Parents who have been fined in one academic year, and chose to take their child out of school for another holiday that year or the following academic year in term time are also at risk of a second, increased fine. For a third holiday, taken within a 3-year period, this could then result in further action being taken by the local authority. To dispel some myths, any monies raised by fines do not come into school – they are held by the local authority!

You may be aware that we currently have some vacancies advertised for roles in our school. These roles include a cleaner and EYFS teaching assistant positions to work in mainstream school and our resource provision. We also have roles for a room lead in our newly planned 9-

24month old provision, due to open in the autumn term, a deputy room lead position and a room lead position for our 2yr+ provision. If any of these roles are of interest to you, or a member of your family, please take a look on the Cheshire West and Chester website and conduct a search for the roles in the school job section.

Next half term is shaping up to be a busy one; we have sports days planned (weather permitting!) transition days and the usual fun end of year activities for Y6 as they prepare to move on to high school. Please can I ask that the children have plenty of water (not juice!) in their water bottles and to also ensure they have the correct clothing (both school uniform and PE kit) for the summer term.

I wish you all a lovely half term and we will see you all back at school on Monday 2nd June.

Mrs Liversey