



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024 – NO. 200

www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk

BIKEABILITY COURSE

From 13th-16th May 2024, Year 8 engaged in a bikeability awareness course. This initiative equips pupils with essential skills to ensure their safety while cycling both on school grounds and in the surrounding area.

On the first day 8a began bikeability week on a high note by all reaching Level 2. The pupils quickly picked up the biking techniques, leading to a successful and seamless day. 8a were a credit to the school living into the Elmwood way showing virtues of awareness, awareness, concentration and determination. Thank you to Athena, teaching assistant, for supporting 8a pupils throughout the day.

8b made great strides on their bikeability course on Tuesday earning a mix of Level 1 & 2 bikeability awards. The day ended on a high note! They were able to show virtues of tolerance, awareness and determination. Thank you to Kerry, teaching assistant, for supporting 8b pupils throughout the day.

On Wednesday 8c successfully completed the bikeability course, earning a fantastic combination of Level 1 & 2 bikeability awards. It's truly impressive to see their dedication and progress. The session was filled with positivity and delight, making it a memorable experience for everyone involved. They too were able to show virtues of awareness and determination. Thank you to Sonya, teaching assistant, for supporting 8c pupils throughout the day.

Thank you finally to Mr Whittaker for organising the bikeability course which was much appreciated.

Report by Leon Donaldson, Teaching Assistant

NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE TRIP



On 20th May all Year 7 pupils attended a trip to the National Space Centre to stretch their understanding of space and to take part in a number of STEM activities related to space. In the morning pupils got a chance to drive a Mars rover around a track, explore the insides of what the space centre is like and experience what take off in a space shuttle would feel like. Before lunch we went to watch the film 'Astronauts' in a planetarium on how space changes their bodies and what they do to overcome challenges they face in space. After lunch pupils set their own miniature rockets off powered by pressurised water. Finally, before we headed home pupils saw two huge used rockets that spanned over six floors. Thank you to all staff involved to make the trip such a success.



Report by Mr Hinsley, Maths Teacher

SUMMER RAFFLE

As part of our fundraising activities, we have organised a mini summer raffle. Prizes (in no particular order) include a sweet hamper, perfume gift set and a variety of bottles including gin, cava, Irish cream liqueur, rum, wine etc.

Tickets cost 5 for a £1 and are now available from the school office and will also be on sale at sports day. The draw will take place on Monday 15th July at 12 noon.

Many thanks in advance for your support, all monies raised go to benefit the pupils.

SCHOOL CLOSURE

Following our recent school closure what became apparent was there were a number of parents/carers who were not accessing Marvellous Me. This is an essential way for us to communicate with a whole school population. Can you please contact the school if you require us to re-send your password.

Report by Mr Cross, Headteacher

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Carol Bratt, cleaner.



How long have you worked at Elmwood? *I started working at Elmwood School in June 2012.*

What do you love about your job? *It is satisfying knowing at the end of the day I've done my best to keep Elmwood clean and tidy for pupils and staff.*

What films have you watched recently? *Back to Black.*

Favourite Holiday? *Rhyl, Towyn—my mom and dad's caravan. Lovely memories of our kids growing up.*

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear? *I used to play a kazoo in a jazz band parade at the age of 15.*

PUPIL UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Our pupil under the spotlight this month is Adam Knibb in Year 11 so a big thank you to Adam for his responses who will be only pupil in our current Year 11 pupils to come under the spotlight prior to leaving on 28th June 2024:

What do you like most about coming to Elmwood School? *They make me a better person due to the wide range of subjects (Out and About).*

Have you any thoughts about what you might like to do after leaving Elmwood? *Study computer science at BMET and pursue a career in the field of computers.*

In your spare time, what do you most like to do? *I am obsessed with gaming but I do like a good song or comedy film.*

Have you done anything that we might be surprised to learn about? *I got a turkey at bowling at the weekend (14th June), 3 strikes in a row.*

If you could go anywhere or do anything, what would you choose? *Go to the future to see the technological advancements.*

ANOTHER DONATION

A very big thank you to Chantal Doyle from Blakemores for their donation of 100 head torches that she kindly delivered to school on 22nd May 2024.

We are always very grateful of any donations and these will make a great resource.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Our school ambassadors met with Bev Bailey, Family Support Worker, on 24th May when the items on the agenda included ICT, staffing, PE and mixed group teaching from their meeting held in December 2023. In addition, this meeting covered new staff, pupil request, time outside, fairness, attendance, morning routine and play therapy.

A copy of the minutes are available on our school website, pupil ambassadors page.

ANOTHER SUCCESS FOR CRAIG WILLIAMSON, FORMER PUPIL

Following on from the report in May's newsletter, we are pleased to confirm that the GB hockey team won silver over the weekend of 15th and 16th June. The event took place in Tilburg, Holland and was a tournament run by the Dutch Special Olympics organisation. In what was a very hard fought tournament, they came up against an experienced Belgian side in the final. The team did GB proud and Craig once again rose to the challenge and came home triumphant (he was much relieved that this event did not have the camera crews and media there unlike the Special Olympics, so no tv interviews this time!). Very well done Craig, another great experience.

STAFFING NEWS



We are sorry to say that Ms Shaw, Food Technology teacher, who has been absent for a while, has tendered her resignation and will therefore be ending her time at Elmwood at the end of term. Ms Shaw joined the school in 2009 and has been a very popular teacher and member of staff. During this time Ms Shaw has organised lots of events which has included our Macmillan coffee mornings and the touching remembrance services involving the Staffordshire Regiment. We are hoping that Ms Shaw will be able to come into school before the end of term so that everyone will have the opportunity to say their goodbyes.



As a result of the above, interviews took place on Thursday 6th June for an unqualified teacher of food technology. Four candidates were interviewed and we are pleased to confirm that Cleo Dudley, who has been working at the school on supply, was the successful candidate. A big thank you to Sarah Thornton, parent governor for assisting Mr Cross, Headteacher, with the interviews. Mrs Dudley will commence her new role in September and we wish her every success in her new post.



On Friday 14th June, Lynn Maritza, School Business, Finance and Operations Manager, celebrated 25 years of working at Daw End/Elmwood School. Lynn arrived to a decorated office and was presented with gifts to mark this special day as well as receiving lots of positive messages. Many congratulations Lynn on this amazing achievement.

GOVERNOR NEWS

Di Cadman, Associate Member Governor and former Teaching Assistant at the school, is currently recovering from an operation and we wish Di a very speedy recovery.



We are sorry to say that Tracy MacDonald, joint chair of governors, has sadly resigned from her role as a governor. Tracy has been a governor since March 2013 and has therefore done more than her original term of office of 4 years; she has supported the school throughout this time facing many an Ofsted Inspector! Tracy has undertaken the role of Chair of Governors for a number of years but more recently has shared this role with Sallyann Tuckwell-Allen. A very big thank you to Tracy who will hopefully be able to pop into school before the end of term so we will be able to say our goodbyes—the door however will always be open to pop in and see us.

Sallyann Tuckwell-Allen will also be stepping down as joint chair of governors at the end of the summer term but will continue to remain as an LA Governor. Sallyann is unfortunately unable to commit the time to the role due to work and personal commitments and we will therefore be looking to elect a new chair in the autumn term. A very big thank you to Sallyann for doing such an excellent job as joint chair and we look forward to her continuing as a governor.

VISIT TO THE NEC GOOD FOOD SHOW

Year 9 and 10 food technology pupils were fortunate enough to visit the NEC Good Food show in Birmingham during this half term. They were all able to explore a range of food and drinks on offer as well as watching some of the equipment demonstrations. They all enjoyed the different samples available and so did the staff! Some of the inspirational products available included a range of chilli sauces and some pupils opted for the hottest they could try! Levi Nevin and Carson Price both agreed that it wasn't too hot for them.

Other opportunities included being able to compare the differences between maturity of cheddar cheese and finally they took part in a science experiment using their taste buds to guess the flavoured water.

Logan Hawley particularly enjoyed the ice-cream samples whilst Jack Poxon was eager to try out his maple sauce that he bought. Well done to all the pupils for encompassing the school values whilst on the trip and let's use all these new ideas we have seen to add to our culinary skills at school! Report by Mrs Dudley, Teacher/Trip Lead

PRICE INCREASE

Unfortunately the price of a school meal will be increasing from September. Walsall Council Catering Department have advised that the cost of a pupil meal will increase to £3.10 per day so £15.50 per week. The cost of purchasing a staff adult meal will increase to £3.30.

8C TRIP TO CHASEWATER



As part of our 'Travel Writing' topic, 8c went on a morning visit to Chasewater on Monday 10th June. There we witnessed waves crashing, felt the warm glow of the sun (as well as the biting cold of the wind!) on our faces and heard the squeaks of the brand-new baby ducks. Pupils made some fantastic notes about all of this which will soon be turned into a piece of extended writing.

Before heading back to school, we had some time for a snack at the café and a chance to play on the park. Just as we thought the trip was over, we were accosted by a huge group of geese, but thanks to two slices of bread we were all able to escape!



We had a fab time exploring the environment and I look forward to our next outing. Well done 8c.

Visits to Sheepwash Farm

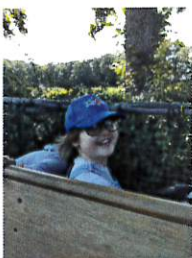
After a curtailment of a year, our annual Year 7 trip to Sheepwash Farm near Whittington took place on Friday 21st June when all pupils in Year 7 enjoyed an educational and fun day down on the farm!

From visiting the market garden, cows and learning about the growing of crops as varied as asparagus, parsnips, potatoes (for McCoys), barley, wheat (for Warburtons) and enjoying a tractor trailer ride—a great time was had by all. The group also visited Rob Gray's wind turbine and sun tracking photovoltaic panels.



After having lunch at the fishing ponds, we embarked upon the trailer again and had our customary 'dip' of the trailer into the pond.

As Year 8 missed their opportunity last year, I managed to arrange a second date for them to visit on the 7th June.



Pupils enjoyed both trips and learnt lots.

A very big thank you to the parents and carers who helped to contribute towards the cost of the visit, which was very much appreciated.

Report by Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning

HAVING A SPLASHING TIME IN ART



Towards the end of the last half-term pupils got mucky! They took inspiration from the famous artist Jackson Pollock and created their own splatter paintings. They used a range of paint colours as well as paintbrushes to create different splatter effects. Some pupils even used leaves, sticks and rocks to create shapes within the paint. Pupils worked sensibly and safely and have created some fantastic artwork.



Mr Whittaker kindly donated some overalls so that pupils didn't get paint on their own clothes, but it seems Shelli George, teaching assistant, didn't get that message and ended up getting her own set of overalls covered in paint (which some pupils helped her with)! Report by Ms Askins, Art Teacher

PUBLISHED WORK

It's time to celebrate as some of the pupils in Year 7 are to become authors and have their short stories published in a real book!

Young Writers runs national writing competitions for schools, helping to turn imagination and creativity into confidence and writing ability. Young writers engages themes to inspire children to get more into writing and to improve their confidence and engagement in writing and telling stories. The result is greatly improved confidence in their creative writing ability and seeing their writing brought to life in a real, physical book that they can proudly put on their bookshelf.

Prizes include: a special bookmark for every entrant, a certificate of merit to all young writers chosen for publication, amazing creative writing goody bags & cash prizes for the top entries, The Young Writers' Award of Excellence for the schools that submit the best overall set of entries along with National Book Tokens or book bundles each term, a complimentary copy of the book for every participating school.

Our winners this year are in 7a—Chloe, Dylan, Daniel, Kyle and Kaiden and in 7b Preston, Maisie, Ethan C, Riley and Phoebe.

Whatever the result we are proud of your achievements. Also big thanks to Mrs Dudley, Teacher, who has supported this project too. Report by Mr Webb, Teacher

Twycross Zoo trip 12.6.24



Thanks to Mrs Francis, Deputy Head and the Rotary Kids Out event, all Elmwood pupils once again benefitted from free entry tickets for Twycross Zoo, in Leicestershire, meaning that we just had to find the £850 for the coach travel.



The trip would be the last one for our Year 11 pupils to take part in and a first whole school trip for our Year 7 pupils; all were a credit to the school, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience especially feeding some of the animals (photos are available on our school website, photo gallery page) and completing the treasure hunt. Staff and pupils came home smiling having enjoyed spending a few hours with the giraffes, parakeets and monkeys. One pupil claimed he'd had the 'best day ever' with some of our young people checking out that day as 'grateful' with hearts full, and tummies filled with complimentary ice cream!



A big thank you goes to the accompanying staff who worked hard all day ensuring that pupils stayed safe and also to Lynne the cook, who prepared numerous packed lunches. Another memorable day for our pupils and staff to enjoy and even the weather stayed fine for it too!



Elmwood pupils triumph over Seeds School in a thrilling 2-1 victory!

Elmwood School's football team showcased incredible skill and determination in their latest match against the Seeds School, securing a well-deserved 2-1 victory. The game was a testament to their hard work, teamwork, and drive on the field.

Starting Line-Up

Captain & Striker: Reshae Pearman, **Striker:** Carson Price, **Centre Midfield:** Preston Ward, Lily Prescott, **Defence:** Samuel Ashbury, Cody Walton, **Goalkeeper:** Ellis Bird

Game

The first half saw Seeds School take an early lead with a well-placed shot that slipped past Ellis Bird. However, Elmwood responded with resilience and determination. Carson Price's perfect cross into the box was met by Re'shae Pearman, who coolly slotted the ball into the net, levelling the score at 1-1 just before halftime. In the second half, the intensity only increased. Both teams had their chances, but it was Elmwood who came on top. A brilliant piece of individual skill from Re'shae Pearman in his free kick which cut through the Seeds School defence before attacking the back of the net. This goal proved to be the match-winner, as Elmwood held on to their 2-1 lead despite Seeds School's relentless attacks. The final whistle was met with cheers and celebrations from the Elmwood supporters. The team had fought hard, showcasing outstanding teamwork and individual brilliance. The 2-1 victory was a true reflection of their effort and dedication.

Player highlights

From the first whistle, it was clear that the Elmwood team was ready to fight for the win. Captain Re'shae Pearman led by example, demonstrating incredible footwork that left the Seeds School defenders struggling to keep up. His relentless drive and quick manoeuvres were a constant threat. Carson Price, playing alongside Re'shae in the attack, was instrumental in setting up plays. His precise passes into the box created several scoring opportunities, putting constant pressure on the Seeds School defence. In the midfield, Preston Ward and Lily Prescott controlled the tempo of the game. Their ability to read the play and distribute the ball effectively kept Elmwood on the front foot. Their combined efforts ensured that the team-maintained possession and dictated the pace of the match. Defenders Samuel Ashbury and Cody Walton formed a solid backline, shooting down Seeds School's attempts to breach their defence. Cody Walton's agility and strength allowed Elmwood's mid fielders to maintain possession. Samuel Ashbury made three notable attempts at scoring from set-pieces, showcasing his versatility and threat on the field. Ellis Bird, our star goalkeeper, was nothing short of spectacular. His reflexes and shot-stopping ability were pivotal in keeping Elmwood in the game, especially during the intense final minutes. Ellis made several crucial saves that preserved Elmwood's lead, ensuring Seeds School couldn't find an equalizer.

Congratulations to Elmwood's football team on their fantastic win!

We look forward to more thrilling matches and victories in the future. Go Elmwood! Report by Ms Diponio, PE Teacher



DIARY DATES

Please see below details of upcoming events for July:

Tuesday 2nd July—Year 11 leavers service commencing at 11 am.

Wednesday 10th July—A reminder that our summer term progress and achievement event will be taking place on Wednesday 10th July. Pupils will leave at 12.30 pm (unless you have booked an early appointment). Staff will shortly be in touch to arrange a suitable appointment time .

Friday 12th July— Sports Day (parents and carers warmly welcome to come along and support their child. Refreshments and a summer raffle will be on offer).

Friday 19th July—pupils break up for the summer break at 12.30 pm