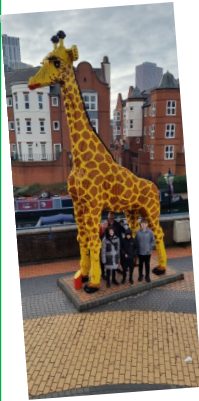




ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2025 – NO. 207

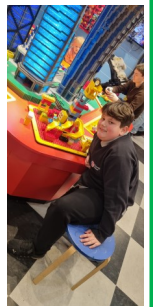
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LEGO TRIP



On the 20th January 2025, Year 8 pupils had the opportunity to visit Legoland Discovery in Birmingham, and experience a whole day there as part of their maths lessons. To start with pupils took a ride on Kingdom Quest where they had to shoot a range of Lego characters to try and get the highest score. Pupils then took part in a bobsled workshop where they had to build a bobsled and launcher to investigate how gravity and where the weight was located in the bobsled affected the distance travelled or/and speed.

Following lunch pupils then went on the Merlin ride, followed by a look around mini land, where Birmingham's famous landmarks had been recreated out of more than 1.5 million Lego bricks. Pupils then went to the 4D cinema experience to watch a Lego Ninjago film with rain, wind and even snow with some getting wetter than others. This is a trip I know the current Year 7 pupils are looking forward to attending on 10th March. Thank you to all the staff that came along (also to NA cars for supplying the mini bus to transport us there) and making the trip such a success. Report by Mr Hinsley, Maths Teacher



ATTENDANCE REWARD SYSTEM

As part of our attendance reward system, any pupil who achieves 100% for a whole term receives a £5 gift voucher and certificate of achievement.

In order to qualify pupils must attend school for both the morning and afternoon sessions (however allowance is made for pupils to attend medical/hospital appointments as long as they return or arrive during the morning or afternoon sessions).

Any authorised absences do not form part of achieving 100%.

Our overall attendance results for the autumn term was over 92.5%, which is amazing so a big thank you for your support.

WHAT A CATCH



Following on from Mr Wood's report in the December newsletter about the lure fishing project he had organised, what a result Nate in Year 7 had during a recent Friday enrichment session.

Nate caught his first ever fish, an impressive looking pike which he was so proud of. Well done Nate and hopefully the first of many.

WHAT AN ACHIEVEMENT

Many congratulations to the following pupils who achieved great success in recent out and about lessons when they learnt how to ride a bike. A big thank you to Sonya Woollery and Ben Micklewright, teaching assistants, for their perseverance in helping Alex, Keegan and Tegan in Year 7 achieve this amazing goal. Logan was not far behind, so hopefully he will be there soon.

Also well done to Daniel in Year 9 who, thanks to Sarah Lock, teaching assistant, managed to ride on his own for the first time and was so proud of himself.

The above success may be attributable to the adoption and adaption of a technique that the outdoor team shared and trained teaching assistants on recently. Thank you also to Leon Donaldson for sharing the video of this method with staff.

STAFFING NEWS

Interviews took place on Tuesday 4th February for a PE teacher. The field of applicants was very strong with four candidates attending for interview. We are pleased to confirm that Simon Murcott was the successful candidate. A big thank you to Di Cadman, Associate Governor, for supporting Mr Cross, Headteacher in the interview process and to the members of the school council, who did an amazing job. We look forward to welcoming Simon onto the team at the earliest opportunity.

WELLBEING WALKS

Parents and carers might be interested in a new initiative of wellbeing walks that have been organised by Sassy Sensory. The walks will take place monthly, in different locations, and are aimed at SEND parents and carers. Further details are available by contacting toni@sassysensorysurprises.co.uk

NEWS FROM FOOD TECH

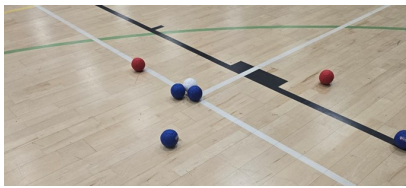
BTEC cooking pupils took part in a business and enterprise breakfast morning on Friday 7th February 2025 to raise funds for their assessments so they can create a fabulous two course meal of their choice.

They managed to raise over £60 by taking orders and producing tasty bacon, sausage and egg sandwiches. They all then delivered the sandwiches around school, and they had some excellent feedback. A huge well done to Carson Price, Jack Poxon, Logan Hawley and Francis Gosling for all their efforts in their first enterprising activity!

School Fund will match fund this amount to help support pupils with this task. We look forward to seeing the finished results and well done to all. Report by Mrs Dudley, Skills Development Coordinator

We are off to the Boccia West Midlands Regionals

Elmwood School is celebrating an exciting sporting achievement by qualifying for the Boccia Regionals Competition. The team's journey to success was filled with impressive performances, determination, and teamwork, making us incredibly proud. The team comprised of Ryan, Caitlin, Kian, Rebecca, Daniel and Pheobe.



In the qualifying rounds, our players demonstrated skill and resilience, winning four games, drawing one, and losing just one. Each game brought its own challenges, but the pupils rose to the occasion with enthusiasm and focus. You can see from the image how good our throws were (we were blue in the game by the way).

The team showcased fantastic leadership skills throughout the competition. Whether it was supporting each other during tense moments or giving the other participants tips on how to throw the ball, they were a credit to the school.

It was wonderful to see the pupils enjoying every moment, cheering each other on, and embracing the true spirit of sportsmanship.

We now look forward to the Regional Competition in the summer. Whatever the outcome, we are confident that our pupils will continue to make us proud and represent the school with dedication and teamwork.



Boccia will now become a feature on the PE curriculum due to the team's success and hopefully continue to grow across the school with more pupils having the opportunity to participate in such a fun sport.

Thanks to Courtney Martin, teaching assistant, who supported myself during the day.

Report by Mr Hawkes, Assistant Headteacher

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Miss Clarke, English Teacher.

How long have you worked at Elmwood? *About 11 years!*

What do you love about your job? *Every day is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get.*

What films have you watched recently? *I watched The Substance, which was bizarre and Grease (for the first time) which was shockingly sexist!*

Favourite Holiday? *I had a lovely holiday in Costa Teguisse a few years ago and got engaged there.*

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear? *I went on holiday to St. Kitts during hurricane season and experienced two storms!*



PUPIL UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Our pupil under the spotlight this month is Maisie Jevons in Year 8 so a big thank you to Maisie for her responses.

What do you like most about coming to Elmwood School? *The staff and my friends.*

Have you any thoughts about what you might like to do after leaving Elmwood? *Get a job as a teaching assistant in this school.*

In your spare time, what do you most like to do? *Colouring, singing, dancing.*

Have you done anything that we might be surprised to learn about? *No.*

If you could go anywhere or do anything, what would you choose? *If I could go anywhere I would go to Wales.*



Wear It Red Day – Supporting the Air Ambulance Charity



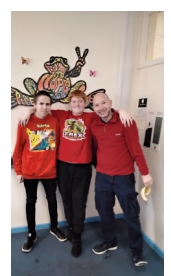
On February 14th, our school came together for a fantastic cause as we celebrated Wear It Red Day. The event was all about raising money for the Air Ambulance Charity, and our pupils and staff did an amazing job showing their support. The week before we welcomed Kay Starkley to the school who led an assembly all about the importance of the work of the Air Ambulance.

Our Elmwood community were encouraged to wear red for the day and bring in a donation to help fund the life-saving work of the air ambulance service. Thanks to the generosity of our school community, we raised £100 for the charity! A special thank you to the family of Riley Cabrera in Year 9 who kindly donated £10 to this good cause. Every penny will go towards keeping this vital emergency service in the air and providing a rapid response to those in need.

It was wonderful to see so many pupils taking part and embracing the spirit of giving. The event not only helped to raise funds but also awareness of the incredible work that the air ambulance does every day.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed whether by wearing red, donating or simply spreading the word. Thank you to all of our Elmwood community.

Report by Mr Hawkes, Assistant Headteacher



ENGLISH TRIP TO WHITTINGTON BARRACKS



This term Year 8 pupils have been studying World War 1 in their English lessons and writing a speech against war. To obtain a perspective of what it would have been like to be a soldier in the war, we travelled to the Staffordshire regiment museum at Whittington, Nr Lichfield, where pupils were able to experience some of the conditions that soldiers had to live by.

Our two guides on our morning visit were knowledgeable, friendly and kitted-out in convincing costumes, they commented on what a wonderful group of children our pupils were. The staff had a lovely manner with the pupils and had an excellent balance of questioning and teaching. We toured the trenches, tried-on uniforms and held weapons. We shuffled down tunnels, experienced an air-raid and climbed ladders. All pupils were enthralled by what was on offer and were talking about the trip on the way home.



A massive thank you to Miss Clarke, Grant Hunt, Frankie Smith and Courtney Martin for their support with this trip. Report by Mr Webb, Teacher

FREE SANITARY PRODUCTS

A reminder that we have a supply of sanitary products available for pupils to use either in school or at home.

Please contact the school office or Bev Bailey, Family Welfare Officer, if of interest.

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

Following the term of office coming to an end, an opportunity for a parent governor to join our friendly team will become available on 17th March 2025.

If you are interested in finding out more and taking a more active part in your child's school, please get in touch with Dawn Canham, Clerk to the Governors, via the school office who will gladly help.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Our School Council Ambassadors met with Bev Bailey, Family Support Officer, on 6th February 2025. Actions from the previous meeting were discussed which included ICT, staffing, PE, mixed group teaching, newsletters, pupil request, school values, attendance, morning routine and play therapy reviewed. The main focus of this meeting was on the presentation of work, and how it can be improved, and an upcoming assembly on mental health with Mr Donaldson. All members conducted themselves excellently and a set of the minutes is available on the Pupil Ambassadors page of the school website.

DIARY DATES

World Book Day is taking place on Thursday 6th March 2025 when pupils (and staff) have the opportunity to come dressed up for the occasion. We look forward to seeing those lovely outfits.

A reminder that school will be closed to pupils on Monday 17th March 2025 as it is a staff training day. We look forward to welcoming pupils on Tuesday 18th March 2025.

Our next progress and achievement event will be taking place on Wednesday 26th March 2025 when parents and carers will have the opportunity to meet with staff to review their child's spring term report as well as reviewing the work that they have achieved. A reminder that pupils will depart at 12.30 pm unless agreed otherwise due to appointment time.