



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2022 – NO. 174

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SPORTS ROUND UP BY MR ASHLEY BULLOCK, PE TEACHER (AND PUPILS IN 7b)

Well it has been a super busy month for sporting achievements at Elmwood! Let's kick off with the amazing 7b and their Boccia tournament where they managed to qualify for the Black Country Schools finals taking place next month! Jayden, John and Sam from 7b talk us through the event in their own words...

7b were invited to take part in the Boccia competition for the Black Country area. Boccia is easy to learn and is like bowling but instead of knocking the pins down you have to try to get your ball (red/blue) closest to the jack which is a white ball. During the competition, held at Sneyd Community Centre, Elmwood showed great sportsmanship with the children around us, some of which had disabilities but that didn't stop everyone having fun together.

Boccia involves a lot of communication and co-operation which was easy because the staff there were very friendly and supportive and even had nice hair. 7b worked as a great team and all of us got along with each other really well, even some of us that don't always get on together in class. When you were not playing you got to play with your friends or the other kids there and we got to have lunch whenever we wanted.

Most of the other teams were respectful in the matches, however, some thought they could pick up their ball and place it next to the jack which is not allowed. Those that did this were reminded of the rules which did make us a bit sad but it didn't spoil our enjoyment for long.

Considering we had never heard of this sport before 7B students have become very skilled and showed great talent for it. We qualified to represent Walsall in the next stage of the competition and so we are going to the Black Country semi-finals!

We really enjoyed taking part and when we arrived back at school we sang in the corridors ...” We made Elmwood proud, proud!” to let everyone back at school know that we had won. Thank you to Mr Bullock for arranging this and Hardeep and Miss Pow for taking us. They have our gratitude dearly.

On Monday 14th February we were also invited to represent Elmwood in a cricket tournament! Go Team 7b!! Report by Jayden, John & Sam.



Secondly we took to two pupils, (Owen Perry and Miles Hall) who represented Elmwood in the Black Country Schools Table Tennis Championships. After only taking up the sport this academic year, these two pupils showcased their abilities against some very tough players from across the Midlands. Each pupil was placed into smaller groups where they would battle it out in a series of games to try and qualify for a semi-final spot.

Both Owen and Miles were involved in some exciting battles and played some camera worthy shots. In fact when playing at the same time Mr Bullock and Paul Middleton didn't know which table to watch!

After all the games were finished, unfortunately Miles finished third in his group, and Owen finished second in his, both narrowly missing out on a semi-final spot. However throughout the entire competition both pupils demonstrated Elmwood's core values and they look forward to returning to next year's competition with a point to prove!

Next we look to Elmwood's football team who welcomed two new faces (Samuel Ashbery and Ellis Bird) to the team to face Seeds in their return fixture. Elmwood were missing some key players due to injury and illness but that didn't stop the team's determination to beat their opponents once again.

The game got off to a quick start with an early goal from Elmwood taking them into the lead. The first half stayed at 1-0 as both teams battled to try and find a way through to score but couldn't capitalise on their attacks.

As the second half got underway a mistake from Elmwood's goalkeeper allowed Seeds to level the score and not long after they managed to find the back of the net once again from a great strike which took them into the lead.

Elmwood never gave up and battled throughout the second half but couldn't find a way to beat the Seed's goalkeeper. Relentless attacks from Cameron, Rhys and Re'Shae still wasn't enough to level the score and the game finished 2-1 Seeds.

Credit to every Elmwood pupil who showed great sportsmanship where the opposition were not so graceful and demonstrating once again Elmwood's key core values of respecting others. Man of the match went to Sam Ashbery for his high work rate in his first game!

Finally we look to 7b who have once again been selected to represent the school, this time in the Walsall School's Cricket Festival. Pupils were invited to play and be coached by Warwickshires cricket coaches and play against other schools. 7b showed their skills that they have learnt in P.E and were able to apply these in a competitive situation. Well done to all of 7b! You are really smashing 2022 so far!



Reports by Mr Ashley Bullock, PE Teacher

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Bev Bailey, Family Welfare Officer and Designated Safeguarding Lead.



How long have you worked at Elmwood? I think 7 years but I rarely keep track of time.

What do you love about your job? Greeting the children every morning; it does not matter how I am feeling, they always light up my day. I also enjoy being able to support the pupils to become the best they can.

What films have you watched recently? I do not sit and watch films, I can get twitchy and have to move. I watch dramas though as these are not on as long.

Favourite Holiday? Cyprus, I have been twice; the second time I did not enjoy however the first time was to a remote part of Cyprus, we hired a Harley for the week and rode to remote beaches.

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear? I was a director of an air conditioning and refrigeration business for 18 years, my route into schools was not planned; I learnt sign language during the evening, posted a CV on the internet and a School in Stoke asked me to join through an agency. Changing my career was a huge gamble but now I couldn't be happier.

MORRISONS IT'S GOOD TO GROW SCHEME

We were pleased to receive our free gardening equipment on 4.2.22 following our It's good to grow order run by Morrisons.

Our outdoor education department has benefited from a garden bucket, 9 kneeling pads, a collapsible bucket, a gorillia tub and a 4 tier shelving unit.

A big thank you to parents/carers who donated vouchers and to Morrisons for these much appreciated items.

DESIGN A CAKE COMPETITION



Morrisons are running a colouring competition in their café at the Morrisons store in Bescot (Wallows Lane) in conjunction with their 'Feed a Family for £10' offer

The prizes for the competition are £20 vouchers to spend in store, which would be great for any families that are struggling.

The colouring competition entry is only valid if the customer has bought the £10 meal deal. Customer details need to be filled out on the back. Open to Under 16s only and the deadline is 27th February 2022.

A copy of the colouring competition is available on the parents/carers courses and information page as well as being available in their café.

NEWS FROM FOOD TECHNOLOGY



"KUNG HEI FAT CHOI" is Happy New year in Chinese. This year is the year of the Tiger. Some of our youngsters discovered what animal they were in the year that they were born . For example, anyone in

Year 11 that was born in 2005 would be the Rooster, 2006-Dog, 2007-Pig, 2008-Rat, 2009-Ox, and 2010-Tiger. Pupils were introduced to a variety of Chinese vegetables these were Bean Sprouts, Bamboo Shoots, Water Chestnuts and Pak Choy to make a very tasty Chow Mein Dish.



Pupils were also excited to make cakes for that someone special for Valentine's Day. Logan in Year 8 had to quality taste test his ahead of sharing!

THE TRAIN LINE

The Train Line have put together a guide to booking family train tickets which will provide you with all the information you need to make your family train trip a breeze. From easy ways to save money on train tickets to offers and child fare information, they have got it covered. Discover top destinations, travel tips, money-saving ideas and much more in their summer train travel guide.

If you're planning a family day out in London or the South of England this summer, kids can travel by train for £2 or less! Visit— <https://www.thetrainline.com/trains/great-britain/family-train-tickets>

NEWS FROM OUT AND ABOUT



This half term has seen the return, after a long time, of scything. This has centred around the virtues of courage, focus and self reliance among others. Pupils have enjoyed this and found it challenging and enlightening in terms of the amount of work required by our ancestors to harvest a field of wheat.

Which brings me to another lesson which followed this, which was straw craft or corn dollies. Pupils made hearts from plaited and box woven wheat straws for valentines. This enabled the practical practising of patience, creativity and concentration.



Our External Audit Consultant for Out and About, Dave Harvey, visited on 9.2.22 to observe one group scything for the first time. He was impressed by the uniqueness of this activity stating 'How many other schools in the UK will be teaching scything?' He was also struck by how well the pupils understood the virtues they were practising. Dave even got one of the pupils to coach him how to scythe, which he did admirably.

Report by Mr D Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning

HELP TO MAKE TUMMIES FULL



Once again Lucy Dennis from Help to Make Tummies Full

has supported the School with the donation of a number of pencil cases. The pencil cases contain an array of items and will be put to good use by both existing pupils as well as being utilised within our pupil welcome packs. Pupils in Years 7 and 8 were pleased to



receive these on 15th February. We hope pupils enjoy putting them to good use.



STAFFING NEWS

Interviews were held on Thursday 20th January 2022 for two teaching assistant posts when four candidates were interviewed by Lee Cross, Headteacher and Sarah Thornton, Parent Governor. We are pleased to confirm that Corinna Harvey and Rubina Mumtaz were successful and we look forward to welcoming them to Elmwood School after the half term break on Monday 28th February 2022.

A very big thank you to Sarah Thornton, mom to Adam in Year 9, for her help and support with the above, it was very much appreciated.

As a result of the above we will be saying goodbye to Michelle Davies and Sarah Foster on Friday 18th February 2022. Both have been working on long term supply as teaching assistants at the school. Michelle and Sarah will be missed by both pupils and staff and we wish them all the best for the future.

Mr Damms and Mr Holmes, teachers, continue to be absent from school. Mr Holmes is continuing to recover from the operation to his knee so is having to take it easy. He is being ably assisted by his daughter Connie, who recently had a doctor's kit for her birthday and is enjoying practicing her medical skills on her dad.

We wish them both the best for a speedy recovery.

SENSORY FUN DAY

Sassy Sensory Surprises hold various sensory experiences in Walsall and have shared that they have a sensory fun day event taking place on Wednesday 23rd February during the half term break for families in Walsall. Please click on the link below to book tickets.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sassy-sensory-session-tickets-259393411677?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&keep_tld=1

Thank a Teacher

The Thank a Teacher campaign recognises ALL staff who working in UK schools and colleges; school leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, and all support staff such as catering staff, caretakers and cleaners. If you're feeling shy you can always send a card anonymously!

If you would like to make someone's day and send them a thank you message the link is <https://thankateacher.co.uk>

Alternatively if any pupils would like to physically write a thank you card, please see Dawn in the office who will gladly provide you with one.



SPREADING THE LOVE

What a lovely welcome greeted staff, pupils and visitors with the wooden heart that was erected by Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning, being put on display at the front of school.

Also linking in with the Valentine's theme were these heart creations made with Shelli George, Teaching Assistant, during Friday afternoon enrichment activities. The heart shaped baskets were made from recycled paper and also featured some of the straw dollies made in out and about lessons. The finished articles were then filled with sweets. Well done Shelli, they look great and no doubt enjoyed by the lucky recipients.



PLANS FOR WORLD BOOK DAY

Pupils are invited to dress up as a character from a book to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March. This is not a non-uniform day, if pupils wish to participate then they **must be dressed as a character from a book, story, comic or novel.**

There were some fantastic costumes last year and we hope to see the same standard again. There will also be a prize for the best costume (one per base)!

We would especially like to see characters from the texts pupils have been reading over the course of this academic year. For inspiration, a list of what we have read so far will be circulated to parents and carers in a separate information letter.

WALSALL RANGERS SCHEME

The Walsall Junior Ranger programme is a brilliant opportunity for children aged between 5-13 years to get to know the outdoors. Older children can be dropped off by parents for the session. However, parents are more than welcome to come along. Younger brothers and sisters are also welcome if parents / carers are staying for the session.

There are two different age ranges of Junior Ranger clubs, sessions for 5 - 8 year olds along with separate group for 9 - 13 year olds.

Junior Rangers are able get to grips with a wide range of outdoor activities, playing games or finding out and exploring wildlife and the wildlife that lives here, learning about their habitats - and how we can help.

Regular attendance also has many other benefits, encouraging development of valuable transferable life skills. Junior Ranger sessions are led by a qualified Forest School leader, with sessions being linked to the National Curriculum helping to benefit children in academic studies. Please see the booklet about the scheme on our school website, Parents/Carers courses and information page.

YEAR 11—1:1 APOINTMENTS

Year 11 pupils have engaged positively with their 1:1 meetings with me to discuss their Post-16 college applications, progress towards their end of Year 11 targets and any recent behaviours that could negatively impact on a positive transition. All pupils listened tentatively and understood the importance of the forthcoming months. What was pleasing to hear was that 100% of pupils had applied for their respective colleges / 6th forms (ably supported by their tutor team) and some had also had interviews. I will be touching base with colleges / 6th forms and the Local Authority at the end of March to ensure that your child's Post-16 provision is named on their EHCP.

Report by Mr L Cross, Headteacher