



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2022 – NO. 181

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ELMWOOD'S FIRST MATCH OF THE SEASON



Elmwood's first SEN football league game got underway on the 7th October and what a game it was to kick off the season. As pupils made their way out on to the pitch, they noticed the sheer size and strength of the Woodfield School opposition and, being that they had brought all year 10 and 11 pupils, we knew it was going to be a tough game. There were some key players missing from Elmwood's usual starting line up but these had been replaced by some new and exciting players in year 7! Rocco, Junior, George and Riley C were new additions to the team this year and all offered amazing talent to push us further this season to reach the play off finals at St Georges Park.

The game got underway and within the opening 3 minutes the opposition made a series of bad passes at the back and the ball was fumbled over the line for an own goal which put Elmwood 1-0 in the lead. This was a real confidence booster for the home side and Elmwood continued to press with numerous attacks from Riley C and Re'Shae. With this relentless pressure it wasn't long before Re'Shae found himself on the edge of the area in a dangerous position. Out of nowhere he managed to cut across the defender and fire a shot into the bottom left hand corner where the keeper could only watch as the ball fired into the back of the net. Ten minutes in and Elmwood were 2-0 up!

As the opposition began to find their feet they soon realised that the only way they were going to beat this skilful Elmwood side was to use brute force and physicality against a much younger and smaller side. Subsequently it didn't take long for the opposition to settle into the game and not long after they managed to get a chance and slot the ball home – 2-1 Elmwood.

The first half was coming to a close but not without one last attack from Elmwood. Re'Shae yet again found himself 1 on 1 with the keeper and Woodfield's defence could do nothing but bring our striker down just as he was able to let off another ferocious shot. With the defender not making contact with the ball it was a clear penalty and captain Riley H stepped up to do what he does best. He calmly placed the ball down on the penalty spot... paced his yards out from the ball... and took a deep breath as he chose where he was going to place the ball. As he approached the ball, the keeper made a move and Riley managed to see this and place the ball into the opposite corner. What a finish from the youngster to take Elmwood into the half time break with a 3-1 lead.

It was clear that the Woodfield team needed to turn it up a notch if they were going to compete in the second half with Elmwood. They stepped out onto the pitch in the second half with a point to prove. As the second half kicked off Elmwood decided to change their goal keeper giving George Hancox a chance now at showing his talents on the field and not just in goal. Junior Stansbie was the man to put on the gloves and what a second half he had!

Woodfield came out fighting! Challenge after challenge, they showed their brute strength and at times Elmwood struggled to compete man for man on the ball. However, as usual, they came together as a team, fighting for one another constantly and battling till the final whistle. Woodfield managed to score 2 goals in quick succession through counter attacks where Elmwood players were unfortunately out of position. Nevertheless, there was still 5 minutes on the clock for either team to score a winner!

It was fast approaching the final whistle and both teams were desperate to score to get that first win under their belt. The ball was lost in mid air from an Elmwood goal kick. One of Woodfield's players turned on the half way line and fired off a rogue volley in the direction of Elmwood's goal... what a strike, the ball floated through the air and found its way into the bottom corner before Junior had a chance to react. Unfortunately that took Woodfield into the lead and, even with a number of last minute efforts from Elmwood, we were unable to equalize!

Well done to all Elmwood pupils who took part in this game. You showed true sportsmanship even when the opposition didn't and truly demonstrated the core values of Elmwood School.

Man of the match went to Harry Moore for his fantastic defence and continuously keeping Elmwood in the game. He made some huge tackles that stopped Woodfield from scoring and, was even involved in some of Elmwood's relentless attacks. This youngster has matured massively both on and off the pitch and needs to keep this attitude in the forthcoming games.

Report by Mr Bullock, PE Teacher

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Lynn Maritza, School Business, Finance and Operations Manager.



How long have you worked at Elmwood? **Over Twenty Three Years**

What do you love about your job? **I love being busy! (and it's a good job I do!)**

What films have you watched recently? **A Quite Place 2 (I've watched 1 and 2 several times)**

Favourite Holiday? **When I went to Malta with my adult children about 7 years ago**

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear? **I used to be in the Pelsall Paraders Jazz Band**

SAFARI PARK FUN

A number of parents and carers, together with Mr Cross who represented the School, enjoyed a great day out when they went along to West Midlands Safari Park on either 8th, 9th, 15th or 16th October 2022. Feedback following these visits was of a fantastic day out which they truly appreciated.

A very big thank you once again to Variety, the Children's Charity, for helping to make this happen, it is much appreciated.

Thank you to those parents and carers who have already sent photographs that can be shared with the Variety Charity—any further ones can be emailed to dcanham@elmwood.walsall.sch.uk



World Mental Health Day on 10.10.22

It was a beautiful October morning for our Mellow Yellow Day this year. In celebration for World Mental Health Day 2022 and, in association with Young Minds, Elmwood School pupils completed the Mellow Yellow Mile for Mental Health. All year groups participated in the mile and either walked, jogged or ran the course. Staff were also involved with Mr Cross making a special appearance in his bright yellow jumper. As always the day is about spreading awareness for mental health. The year groups were absolutely fantastic and demonstrated some real positive behaviours out on their mile! Well done.

Mr Bullock also had a little side competition where the fastest person to complete their Yellow Mellow Mile would win a prize!

In third place with a time of 11 minutes and 15 seconds was... Riley Cabrera, Yr 7
In second place with a time of 9 minutes and 5 seconds was.... Sammy Kirby Rogers, Yr 11
In **first** place with a time of **8 minutes and 44 seconds** was **Charlie Smyth, Yr 7**

Report by Mr Hawkes, Assistant Headteacher



STAFFING NEWS

Interviews took place on Tuesday 11th October for the caretaker vacancy. We are pleased to confirm that Marvarick Perry was the successful candidate and we look forward to welcoming him onto the staff team. Marvarick has been working on supply for a few weeks and is already forging good relationships with both staff and pupils. Very well done Marvarick. A big thank you to Sandra Mills, Governor, for her support with the interview process and also to Lynn Maritza, School Business, Finance and Operations Manager, Julie Burnell, Head Cleaner and Bev Bailey, Family Support Worker (together with School Council ambassadors).



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



Elmwood hosted the annual Macmillan coffee morning on 30th September. All sweet treats were freshly prepared by students during their cooking lessons with Ms Shaw and some staff kindly donated cakes and biscuits. Special mention goes to Riley and Owen (BTEC Cooking Yr11 students) who decorated the cake which was then used for a raffle prize.

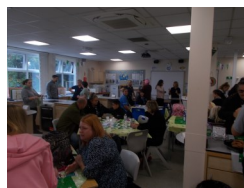
The event was well attended by parents, governors (Di Cadman, Rose Burley and Sarah Thornton), staff and students. Elmwood had also invited some key partners to discuss their services and answer any questions posed by parents.



The cake was won by teaching assistant Kerry Bowen who very generously donated it to Harry-Lee in 7b.

Elmwood collected £97.63 in donations which will go to Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you to everyone that supported us on the day.

Report by Jo Hughes, Teaching Assistant/Family Support Assistant



FREEBIES

If any parent or carer are in need of any spare items of uniform, we have a limited amount of donated items from former pupils that you can have.

In addition we also have a number of sanitary products available for any of our female pupils.

Please contact the office if you are interested in either of the above items.

Science is everywhere, even in the woods

A select group of key stage 3 pupils (Josh, George, Paul, Bradley and McKenzie in Year 8 and Sennen, Joe, and Carson in Year 9) recently spent a day in the woods of Leicestershire, putting their science knowledge into action. The first task of erecting a tarp shelter without any creases, caused the pupils to consider the direction of forces applied to the tarp by the securing ropes



Water is essential for life, but often it requires cleaning. Using natural materials (stones, moss and sand) the pupils were able to construct a filter that progressively removed smaller and smaller contaminants to produce clean water.

Heat is also an essential component for survival – the pupils were given the challenge of lighting a small fire to boil a bottle of water. This required patience, perseverance, and the ability to choose the correct size materials. The pupils gained an understanding of energy transfers and the fire triangle during this task. One fire was successful enough to boil water for hot chocolates that completed a fun day in the outdoors. More photographs from the day are available on the photo gallery page of the school website.



Report by Dr A Price, Curriculum Lead for Science

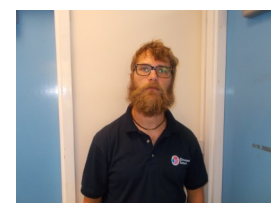
All change for Mr Cross



During the October half term Mr Cross (Headteacher) will be embarking on a distinctive change!!!! He will be having his first wet shave since 2005 to support men's health through "Movember".

As a school community, that is heavily dominated by males, it's an opportunity to do something truly great for this charity. During my time at Elmwood I have always been an advocate of men's health and delivered these messages clearly through assemblies to raise awareness for the whole of our school community. I will be accepting donations throughout the month of November - so any spare change you have would be greatly appreciated.

I will be keeping a handlebar moustache for the month so my face can acclimatise to the harsh autumn breeze. Report by Mr Cross, Headteacher



Palfrey School Outreach

During the summer I worked with Palfrey Primary School training their staff in how to utilize their grounds to teach Outdoor Learning to their pupils. This has been undertaken as part of my School Leader in Education support work to Schools.

This project has continued this term with a new commission to train their staff in activities outdoors that can be linked to the curriculum, as well as the mapping, creation and training of their very own tree trail onsite at Palfrey. The process has included identifying the species of trees (14 different varieties selected), mapping these, creating maps with numbered trees on (brass house numbers were used for longevity), then creating an answer sheet, worksheets and identification booklets for the pupils to try to identify the various trees from.

Palfrey staff are very excited to use the trail for their pupils to practice their taxonomic skills, as well as appreciate the qualities of the wide variety of trees they have onsite. It is also hoped that additional projects might stem from this work.

Report by Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning/SLE in Outdoor Learning.

“Money, Money, Money”

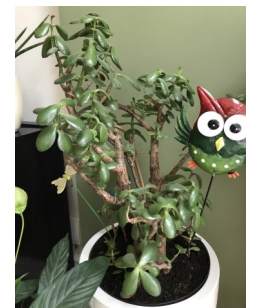


You may remember the competition launched across the school about this time last year promoting the love of plants and one plant in particular...the aloe vera! Each tutor group were given their own plant and asked to name it, measure it and submit their vital statistics: longest leaf, widest leaf and the tallest plant. Each half term the results were shared and, the best progress made in each category, won a small prize. Also, the best overall winner of the most improved would win a trip to McDonalds for a treat!

Before congratulating the winner I think a special mention should go to: Jeffrey and 11b (was 10b); Aloe Kevin and 10a (was 9a); Mr Sparkles and 9b (was 8b); Nine and three quarters and 8a (was 7a) and finally Plantera and 8b (was 7b). I am now very pleased to announce that the winner for the plant that has made the most overall improvement is Yukka who was lovingly cared for by Kerry, Mr Francis and 9a (was 8a). Congratulations to them and we hope they enjoy the reward visit to McDonalds.

The next competition will be to grow and nurture a “money plant” also known as the “jade plant” due to its lush green shiny appearance.

Will the “**Money Plant**” increase your bank balance, buy you the latest iphone, get you the latest trainers or maybe help your rainy-day savings grow? Possibly, but possibly not. It is thought that if you receive one as a gift then it brings you riches in more ways than those financially and potentially for the rest of your life, as this variety of plant can live for many years. In fact, all of the plants in the competition originate from my grandmother’s plant; which was given to her in the late 1960’s and is still alive and thriving in my lounge!



The competition will run until next May and remember you’ve got to be in it to win it so keep growing your little pot of money and you too could get to spend it in McDonalds next year. Good luck!

Report by Ms Pow, Nurture Teacher