



# ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2023 – NO. 184

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## ELF PERFORMANCE



On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December a group of very dedicated staff took a day out of their Christmas holidays to facilitate a trip to the performance of Elf shown at Resorts World in Birmingham. We were lucky enough to have been gifted some tickets from Aldridge Rotary so were able to run the trip for those who requested a place. The pupils were impeccably behaved and an absolute joy to take out for the day saying they all thoroughly enjoyed the show. Many had not seen a pantomime before so staff were thrilled to be able to offer this experience which was

heart-warming to be a part of. The show itself featured a Santa's flying sleigh, an audience snowball fight, an indoor snowstorm, a giant candy cane journey from the North Pole, and an aerial cirque star with giant tv screen!

Special thanks goes to Miss Diponio, Mrs Pow, Mr Francis and Mr Bullock who offered their time and made this day as special as it was. I think we'll all fondly remember the outing as one of our favourites at Elmwood.

Report by Mrs Francis, Deputy Headteacher

## REWARD TRIPS—6.1.23

This term's **gold reward trip** was go karting. We started the day getting suited up in our racing gear before having the safety briefing to ensure everyone understood how to race as safely as possible. It was then race time! The standard was extremely high with a lot of talent on the track. Staff were amazed at how the pupils were able to run rings around them during the two heats. Everyone had a fantastic day but the real star of the show was Logan Gosling who overcome his fears and got into the go kart and raced around the track all by himself! Well done Logan! Report by Mr Francis, DT teacher.



For this term's **silver reward trip** pupils ventured to Jump Xtreme in Tamworth. Pupils had the opportunity to bounce for over an hour showcasing their skills on the trampolines and dodgeball area. Pupils who were brave enough also jumped from the high diving boards and encouraged others to face their fears. At one point there were over 20 pupils supporting Shelli (teaching assistant) to try and get her to jump off but unfortunately it was just a little too high! However she did jump off the last step off the coach with the support of all pupils and staff from the trip.



Pupils were invited to a buffet lunch after their bouncing session in the cafe where they were given pizzas, chips, sandwiches and lots of other tasty snacks! All pupils demonstrated Elmwood's core values and cared for themselves, others and the environment. It was a pleasure to accompany the pupils on this trip and all of us had a wonderful day. Report by Mr Bullock, Teacher

**Bronze trip pupils** were lucky enough to go to the Hollywood bowl in Wednesfield where tension and focus were the key elements for this skilful game. Pupils from Years 7-11 competed against each other, and of course the staff. It was evident that a good time was had by all!



Special mention to Brandon (Y7) who had never been bowling before and achieved two strikes which he was very pleased with. For others it was a chance to brush up on their current bowling skills. It was great to see some pupils giving some much needed pointers to some staff (who will not be mentioned!) just so they could roll the ball down the lane!

A big thank you to all staff that supported this reward trip! Report by Mr Webb, Teacher

## UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Mr Lee Cross, Headteacher.

**How long have you worked at Elmwood?** I believe it will be 11 years in July 2023.

**What do you love about your job?** I have had many different titles whilst being at Elmwood but what I love the most is the difference my roles and responsibilities have made to the pupils who have attended Elmwood.

**What films have you watched recently?** The Glass Onion - Knives Out Collection, Bullet Train and a documentary/series about Mike Tyson

**Favourite Holiday?** Christchurch, Dorset and Tomatin, Scotland

**Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear?** During my year out I had many jobs to save up money for university: Biology Lab Technician at my old secondary school; Carer for elderly patients with vascular dementia; Technician for DEFRA - looking for ecoli in animal poo and trainee fishmonger / butcher.



### FOOTBALL MATCH—20.1.23



Elmwood bounce back with a win!!!

Elmwood looked to end their losing streak on 20.1.23 and boy did they put on a show. They were up against Brades Lodge and knew they needed to pull out all the stops if they were to steal 3 points.

The game started off with Elmwood applying constant pressure in the middle of the park. Malachi and Jake Hall held firm in midfield and were able to find some fantastic passes through to Cameron Willetts and Re'Shae up front who just couldn't slot it away to take Elmwood into the lead.

However, it didn't take long before the star striker Re'Shae, found himself one on one with the goalkeeper! We all know that when we get to this point, it's game over for any goalkeeper and Re'Shae fired the ball into the back of the net to take Elmwood into a one nil lead early on.

But Elmwood didn't stop there! We continued to play amazing football and, with the addition of Junior and Sam coming on as substitutes, it only strengthened the side and we looked to go forward over and over again. With only a couple of minutes passing since the first goal, Cameron and Re'Shae went on the attack again. Some fantastic tiki-taka football saw Re'Shae yet again, one-on-one with the goalkeeper and fired home his second.

As the first half drew to a close, Elmwood would manage to get two penalties, but unfortunately Junior and Malachi couldn't find the net. Nevertheless, we regrouped during the half time team talk and looked to go out into the second half to score more goals and build our confidence.

The second half got under way and Harry Moore, who was having an unbelievable game after returning to the side, surged forward with the ball from defence and squared it across to Cameron Willetts who is always calm and composed in front of goal. As predicted, he slotted the ball past the goalkeeper and took Elmwood to a comfortable 3-0 lead.

The second half remained solid for Elmwood and Riley Higgs and Harry Moore put in an impressive shift denying every attempt Brades made to get on the scoresheet. A shot was fired late into the second half from the opposition and the ball was heading in the top corner. George Hancox saw it coming and made an immense camera save as he reached out to stop the shot. The whole field stood in awe and even Mr Bullock, who was refereeing, couldn't believe his eyes.

In the last few minutes a slip up from Elmwood's defence allowed the opposition to get a chance on goal and they managed to take the score to 3-1.

The score finished 3-1 to Elmwood and man (or men) of the match went to Harry Moore and George Hancox.  
Report by Mr A Bullock, PE Teacher

## GOVERNOR NEWS

We are pleased to confirm that Tracy Brandwood and Sallyann Tuckwell-Allen have taken on the role of joint Chair of Governors with Sarah Thornton becoming Vice Chair of Governors. A big thank you to Tracy, Sallyann and Sarah for their continued support.

Thank you to Jamie Leigh Roberts, mom to Ellie in Year 10, for her time as a parent governor which ended at the end of the autumn term. We are pleased to confirm that John Matthews, parent of Izzy in Year 10, and Lisa Jones, mom to Caitlin in Year 7, will be joining the team as parent governors and will be attending their first termly meeting on Thursday 30th March. A big thank you to them both for their support.

We wish Tracy Brandwood, joint Chair of Governors, a lovely day for Saturday 25th February when she will be getting married to Tim—we wish you every happiness for the future and we look forward to hearing all about it).

## SUPERSTARS

Well done to the following pupils who managed to avoid going down with any of the bugs during the autumn term and achieved 100% attendance. Pupils were presented with certificates and a £5 gift voucher by Mr Cross, Headteacher in recognition of this achievement.

Sophie Byrne  
Mckenzie Gonderton  
Francis Gosling  
George Hancox  
Joseph Jenkins  
Harlow Jones  
Ryan Keenan  
Libby Leach  
Rianna Lewis  
Cody Love-Knight  
Paul Robinson  
Rebecca Spendlove  
Caitlin Walker  
Callum Wilkinson  
George Wynn

A very well done also to the following staff, who also achieved 100% attendance during the autumn term and also received certificates:

Dan Whittaker, Chris Bowen, James Francis, Olivia Diponio, Laura Askins, Tracey Pow, Hilary Shaw, Dawn Canham, Jade Lunt, Debbie Causer, Grant Hunt, Jo Hughes, Adam Mitchell, Tracy Jackson, Rubina Mumtaz, Caroline Bratt

## SUPPORTING SCITT STUDENTS

Week commencing 16th January Elmwood supported a number of SCITT students from Barr Beacon School as part of their teacher training programme.

Feedback from students was highly positive and the experience has helped them to develop a greater understanding of the theory and applying this to a live classroom experience.

Barr Beacon School wrote and thanked Elmwood staff for their support and assistance during this carousel week. We wish the students every success for their future careers.

## FAMILY FIRST TEAM

The UK's best parenting magazine is free for all carers, parents and grandparents which is provided by the Family First Team. Please see link below to access this publication—enjoy.

[https://issuu.com/sevenstarmedia/docs/ff\\_winter2022\\_digital160123](https://issuu.com/sevenstarmedia/docs/ff_winter2022_digital160123)

## AUTUMN TERM PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT EVENT

A big thank you to the parents and carers who either attended their appointments in person or undertook a phone consultation on Wednesday 7th December 2022. Appointments were made for 68 students with 60 appointments carried out when pupils' reports were reviewed and spring term targets looked at. These sessions give parents and carers an ideal opportunity to raise any concerns with staff so any issues can be addressed. For information the spring term event will take place on Wednesday 22nd March 2023.



Year 7s have returned following the Christmas break hitting the ground running, accumulating their skills to produce dishes to coincide with Veganuary. They are chefs in the making experimenting with lots of vegetable choices outside their comfort zone with ingredients like chickpeas, broad beans, courgettes, celery, sweet potato, butternut squash and with choices of plant based proteins. The response to the dishes overall were very positive, remembering that it is part of their 5 a day and helping to keep their bodies very healthy as it is low in fat.

Burns night was also celebrated with our annual addressing the haggis and discovering Robert "Rabbi" Burns. All classes made a variety of dishes with a base of haggis. Again a food that many of Year 7s would not have heard of or tried before. The jury is out on haggis with most pupils. Report by Ms Shaw, Food Technology Teacher



## NEWS FROM FOOD TECHNOLOGY

### CHARITY EVENT

Mr Bullock is supporting West Midlands, Air Ambulance Charity.

On Saturday 11th March, he will be running a charity coffee morning. During the coffee morning, there will be a raffle and he will be selling tickets prior to this in school and around the local community. These will be sold at £1 a strip. If you would like any raffle tickets, please could you send the money in with your child.

Some of the prizes already included in the raffle as of now are—a night out for 6 people at the floodgate in Digbeth, M&S vouchers, a meal for 2 at the Patty Freaks in Lichfield, a Rioja wine selection case, a free car valet, lots of wine and drink gift sets, Cadbury's chocolate gift sets, handmade cupcake boxes and gym memberships. Your support would be much appreciated.

### STAFFING NEWS

Bev Bailey, Family Welfare Officer, continues to be absent from work following her injury prior to Christmas. Bev is slowly improving and is looking forward to returning to work at the earliest opportunity.

Mr Bullock PE Teacher, is also recovering from a chest injury he has incurred and we wish Mr Bullock all the best for a speedy recovery.

### CIRCUS VISIT

Thanks to Circus Starr, 15 pupils had the opportunity to go along to Darlaston town Hall on Thursday 12th January to see their latest show.

Pupils remained on site at the end of the day where they enjoyed pizza and chips ahead of going along with Mr and Mrs Wood, Ms Pow and Shelli George, who all kindly gave up their free time to accompany pupils.

Feedback from pupils (and staff) was that they had a lovely time and especially enjoyed the Minions, as well as the dancing bears and the funny people that acted like clowns.

A very big thank you once again to Circus Starr and to the companies/organisations who fund these free tickets which gives our pupils the opportunity to experience this out of school activity.

