



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER JULY 2023 – NO. 190

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FUNDAY FRIDAYS

Funday Fridays are a curriculum enhancement that looks to support your child’s personal development – and also the breadth of the school’s curriculum. Pupils progress through a carousel of activities. These activities act as vehicles to develop your child’s **communication, leadership** and **preparation for adulthood** as well as them demonstrating the school’s observable behaviours aligned to our values of Care for Self, Others and the Environment.

Staff will utilise the group’s success within communication, leadership and preparation for adulthood to plan for opportunities to address in their next activity.

These experiences are a core component of your child’s education and are not a reward trip. They are an essential experience that supports the school’s curriculum.

This half terms activities include: Leadership event, historic immersive experience, local community work, plan a day activities, and create an assembly.

Here are a selection of IMPACT measures following this half terms experience:

Nurture

7a – Leadership event at Little Bloxwich Primary School. Pupils showed great maturity and self confidence in visiting a local primary school in order to deliver sessions they had created themselves. They problem solved and demonstrated great communication skills in order to successfully engage younger participants. Well done team!

7b made arrangements to plan their own day out and went to Telford Ice rink. Planning the day required compromise, positive communication, a desire to care for each other, and also have some fun! A good day was had by all participants (and well done to Miss Askins who didn’t quite conquer her dragon but she did get as far as getting her foot on the ice!). Pupils showed their maturity and real kindness by checking out as grateful for their fabulous fun filled day.

7c worked together to create an assembly that will be shared with school later in the year. The group came up with ideas and cooperated with one another in order to conjure up a masterpiece that we can’t wait to share!

The whole year 8 team were lucky enough to enjoy a trip to The Black Country Living Museum immersing themselves in a fun filled day of local culture, historical industrial knowledge, and a truly memorable day altogether. They were able to repeat prior learning which prepares them for adulthood, of the local transport systems to travel there and back and still have time for chips and an ice cream in the middle! A great day was had by all seeing pupils experience local history and culture.



Transition

9a most certainly lived in to the Elmwood value of caring for the environment by making sure various parts of the school were maintained and fit for purpose. Huge thanks to the group for clearing the sand pit in preparation for sports day, and for sorting the firepit and basketball courts. Your attention to detail was impeccable, as was your ability to pull together as a team and show real pride in your achievements!

9b worked within their new form team group so they too could create an assembly which will be shown in school at the end of term. Their thoughtful consideration of each other’s skills and communication strengths meant they were able to film each other successfully. Can’t wait for the premier!

Year 10s were largely out on a science trip to the National History Museum in Oxford which was a great success – well done guys for overcoming nerves and the fear of the unknown so you could enjoy a day of scientific specimens and natural history.

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Simon Wood, Teacher

How long have you worked at Elmwood? *I have been part of the Elmwood family for a little over 6 years.*

What do you love about your job? *I love that every day is different along with the sense of pride I experience when a child overcomes a barrier and flourishes.*

What films have you watched recently? *I tend to watch Sci-Fi movies and action/adventure movies. One of my all-time favourites is Battleship. Recently I have watched Black Adam with Dwayne Johnson. It wasn't great!*



Favourite Holiday? *My favourite holiday is anywhere near water so I can fish. Recently I've been to Majorca (Cala Bona), a truly lovely location and yes I managed to do some fishing.*

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear? *I've had many previous jobs including coachbuilding, delivering goods and installing electricals in people's homes. However my favourite previous role was as a civilian trainer, working for Surrey Police for over 4 years. I used to teach first aid to a high level, dependant on the job role of the officers attending, and health and safety.*

CAREERS EVENT



On Wednesday 28th June Year 9's were treated to a visit to Black Country Careers. A very well organised and fantastic event put on by Inspiring the Black Country at Dunstall Park Race Course. This allowed all pupils to experience a social setting and to see the career opportunities that are available when it comes to making decisions about their further education—which will be here before you know it!

There were many well informed stands all promoting a wide range of skills, welcoming our pupils to have a go at what could be that lightbulb moment for them to decide "this is for me".

Popular ones were the computer careers. One particular stand had a virtual experience in working a drone within the construction industry with Jack Poxon managing to be the only pupil at the all-day event to complete the task first time!!!

It was so enlightening to see many of our pupils interacting with many different training providers and being allowed to have independence for the afternoon. Pupils also enjoyed collecting lots of promotional freebies which will help them remember the afternoon and the opportunities that are out there.



Report by Ms Shaw, Food Technology Teacher

Cole met with Andy Street, West Midlands Mayor

Progress and Achievement Event

Our summer term event was held on 12th July 2023 when 56 out of 58 appointments were attended by parents and carers, some were conducted by telephone consult but the majority involved personal appointments. During these consults, pupils' summer term reports were shared and targets for the autumn term reviewed.

A big thank you to Ms Shaw who kindly provided refreshments in between appointments, which are always welcomed.

Comments received included from a Year 7 pupil—'I love coming to school and have made massive progress' and from a parent 'Thank you to all staff as she has come back into education again'.

For information our autumn term event will take place on Tuesday 5th December 2023.

STAFFING NEWS

We welcomed Charlotte Clarke, English Teacher, back to school on Monday 3rd July after going on maternity leave in September 2022.

Congratulations to Mr Hinsley and his wife Kelly, who are expecting their second child in October. Big brother Archie will be on hand to help do his bit.

Cleo Dudley, will be joining us in September on long term supply as a teacher. Cleo joined staff on 5th July for an induction day.

Aaron Griffin has also joined the school on supply this month as a teaching assistant and will be returning in September.

Thank you to Lynne the cook for once again in providing pupils on free school meals with a packed lunch on the two further strike days of 5th and 7th July. These were very much appreciated.

RHYS IS BACK

We were very pleased to welcome Rhys Humphries, Year 11 leaver in June 2022, back to Elmwood on 3rd July. Rhys will be spending 3 days per week over the final 3 weeks of term as part of his College work experience placement.

Rhys is determined to return in the future as a PE teacher at Elmwood and has been a great help at what is a busy time of the school year.

Rhys was an asset to the team on sports day where he assisted the PE Department in delivering another successful event.

Ancient Japanese art of Kin Tsugi

Pupils have been trying their hand at the ancient Japanese craft of Kin Tsugi - 'golden joinery'. The craft involves repairing broken crockery, often a bowl and painting the joins with gold. The art is a metaphor for life. It represents that we can all be damaged by life events, but in our repair and renewal we might become even better! A message not to hide the cracks, but to celebrate and recognize them.

It is believed that the skill originated when Japanese shogun, Ashikaga Yoshimasa, sent a damaged Chinese tea bowl back to China for repairs in the late 15th century. When it was returned, repaired with ugly metal staples, it prompted Japanese craftsmen to look for a more aesthetically pleasing means of repair. They repaired the cracks with gold — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBUTQkaSSTY>

Pupils have enjoyed the process of breaking their bowl initially and then carefully gluing it back together and, eventually, painting the cracks gold at the end.

Pupils have practised the virtues of patience, gentleness and compassion during the lessons.

Overall classes have had a smashing time! Report by Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning



YEAR 11 LEAVERS ASSEMBLY



Year 11's attended their leavers assembly and buffet lunch on 04.07.23 together with friends, family and loved ones. We also had past members of staff attend who have played integral roles within this cohort, which was a pleasant surprise to all. The theme of the assembly was around us acknowledging the journey we have all been on and the importance of demonstrating effective communication skills, as well as surrounding themselves with OGP (Only Good People) within their lives beyond Elmwood. It was brilliant to see such pride by pupils and loved ones and a real sense of belonging to our Elmwood Community. Pupils demonstrated outstanding behaviour and conduct when interacting with each other and visitors, which reinforces the amount of growth that has occurred with this cohort during their time. Our joint Chairs of Governors, Tracy MacDonald (nee Brandwood) and Sallyann Tuckwell Allen, as well as Di Cadman, Associate Member Governor were able to join in the celebrations and also provided gifts and cards for pupils.

Pupils received the following acknowledgements:

- Marvellous Me memory books.
- Ignite your Future – striker and wood shavings within a decorative box.
- Certificate celebrating the values they have demonstrated the most during their time at Elmwood.
- A selection of sweets / chocolates.
- A selection of cards.
- Signed memory book – staff.
- Opportunity to sign their school shirt.

We look forward to further celebrations on Results Day (24.08.23). Report by Mr Cross, Headteacher



AIR AMBULANCE



As you may remember Mr Bullock and his family organised a coffee morning for Midlands Air Ambulance and managed to raise a whopping £1269.42! In light of this, Midlands Air Ambulance wanted to come into Elmwood to deliver some first aid training and give the pupils a chance to look around and even sit inside one of the Air Ambulance pods. But in true Elmwood style we decided to go all out and make this an Air Ambulance week! In the build up to

their arrival, pupils created posters, watched videos, and educated themselves on the duties and roles that Air Ambulance medics and pilots have within the Charity. Pupils were shocked that the Air Ambulance is a non-government funded organisation that relies solely on the donations of others to operate.



On 28th June Kay Starkey and her team came to Elmwood and delivered CPR training to each pupil at school to equip them with the skills to help save someone's life. Each and every pupil at Elmwood demonstrated our core values throughout the day of caring for self, others and environment and showed the upmost respect towards the Air Ambulance staff. It was a fantastic day enjoyed by all which has started of a great relationship with an amazing Charity.



To support this event even further Elmwood organised a 'wear it red' day on Friday 30th June to support Air Ambulance and many staff and pupils made donations towards the amazing charity. Tiger Lilly Allen in Year 8 was even seen donating some of her birthday money to the Charity – I think this just goes to show what kind hearted pupils we have here at Elmwood!

In total Elmwood raised a huge £122.00 for Midlands Air Ambulance and Kay and her team are excited for the next opportunity to come back and work with Elmwood. Report by Mr A Bullock, Teacher



Making a Splash!



After a break since before covid in summer 2019, (during which Mr Holmes and myself have both attended and achieved additional certifications in paddleboarding,

alongside our existing canoe qualifications), we have managed to bring stand up paddling onto the programme this summer in Out & About lessons. This has meant a return to Manor Park Sailing Club where Mr Holmes and myself have led the sessions there.

It has involved considerable organisation, new risk assessments, missing lunches to transport pupils the 30 mins to the site, accessing keys and alarm codes etc but has been worth it to see the pupils' enjoyment of the gliding across the lake.

This has taught focus, resilience, determination and courage.

Report by Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning

HALL OF FAME



Our reception area has a new addition with a Hall of Fame which celebrates the success of former pupils.

Currently the display consists of profiles of Rhys Humphries, Craig Williamson, Tom Carter, Ashley Clewley, Rico Maritza-Yates, Jamie Ashford and Sam Taylor.

Tom Carter, one of the above profiles on display recently emailed stating the following:

"I feel that my time at Elmwood changed my life and I feel like I have made a positive impact on my time at Elmwood. Since leaving Elmwood I have completed a BTEC Level 3 in sport at college and I'm now in my 3rd and final year of university to be a paramedic. Elmwood changed my life and I couldn't ever express how much that means to me because I wouldn't be the person I am today without them".

It is always lovely to hear how our leavers are progressing and the impact their time at Elmwood has had.

GREEN FINGERS



Harry Lee Cox has discovered that he is green fingered and loves growing. He has planted strawberries,

herbs and veg in his form room. He has also arranged the planting in our annual kayak display and is in charge of watering the display.

WINTERLEY LANE ALLOTMENTS, OPEN DAY EVENT

For a number of years the school has had a plot at the above allotments, close to the school in Rushall. Pupils have enjoyed growing and harvesting crops (then the important bit of tasting them), as well as having access to chickens and bee hives that are also on the site.

On Saturday 12th August from 11 am to 3pm, the allotments association is organising an open day where there will be a plant stall, bric-a-brac, tombola and bottle stall. All money raised will be used towards site maintenance such as track maintenance, site security, general repairs etc.

Any support would be much appreciated.

Sports Day Report - 11.7.23



Sports day 2023 concluded with Ainslie winning the house cup for the second year in a row, Ennis house had been leading ahead of the final event. As the quadrathlon accounts for double the points for the house, Riley from 7b pulled it out of the bag in the final 100m sprint and by coming in second place in the 100m, he got the points required to win the house cup outright.

Sports person of the year was Riley from 7b who, as the only year 7 in the quadrathlon, faced pupils who were in Years 9 or 10 and still held his own to secure 2nd. Ainslie house were ecstatic with the win and Leon Donaldson, Team Captain, was overjoyed and they now become the team to beat next year.

In the next academic year, the PE department plans to run an inter house event each term so let's hope that a house team can finally beat Ainslie in the big events. We plan to run inter house events in striking and fielding games such as rounders and Danish longball.

The overall house standings were Ainslie 1st, Ennis 2nd, Wiggins 3rd and Murray 4th.

Pupils were presented with their gold, silver or bronze medals following each event, which were funded by our school fund account.

Four school records were broken which were:

Sennen Gregory, Yr 9— Hammer Throw 40m
Malachi Grainger, Yr 7— Hammer Throw 32m
Reece Oxford, Yr 10— High Jump 1.45m
Rhys Shaemer, Yr 7— Race Walk 1.16.00 seconds

We also had a special visitor on the day when Craig Williamson, our ex pupil who recently won gold for hockey in the special Olympics proudly showed his gold medal to everyone. What a role model for our pupils to aspire to.



Once again Waj from NA Cars (our transport provider) made sure every pupil and staff were rewarded with a delicious free ice cream—what a lovely treat and a big thank you to Waj for providing this.

Thanks to all those who took part in the event including Mrs Shaw and Bev who organised the food and drinks for parents and carers—donations made totalled £40.35 which were much appreciated and go into our school fund account which is used solely to benefit pupils.

Finally thank you to the PE department of Mr Bullock, Miss Diponio and Mr Cross for all their help in making the day such a great success. Report by Mr Hawkes, Assistant Headteacher



VISIT TO STRATFORD UPON AVON TRIP

On Monday 3rd July Year 7 pupils ventured out to Stratford Upon Avon to learn about the life of William Shakespeare to consolidate their learning of Romeo and Juliet this term. Pupils rode on a hop on, hop off bus tour around Stratford learning about William Shakespeare's childhood and later life. Unfortunately the weather didn't hold out for us on the open top bus but nevertheless pupils enjoyed every minute and actually welcomed the rain. They were still able to hear the tour guide over the almighty wind and were able to take in some key information about William Shakespeare and the time in which he lived.

We enjoyed a McDonalds mcflurry after the tour to allow ourselves time to dry off, we then we visited the Royal Shakespeare Company theatre where pupils dressed up in Shakespearian clothing to understand how others dressed at the time.

A thoroughly enjoyable day and one that allowed pupils to relate their knowledge of Romeo and Juliet to. Report by Mr A Bullock, Teacher



Oxford Natural History Museum

Elmwood science department recently visited the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, established in 1860. It holds an internationally significant collection of natural history specimens in a stunning neo-gothic building.



1600s Tradescant Collection formed

1677 Ashmole cabinet arrives in Oxford

1860 Museum of Natural History opens

Today Most-visited non-national UK science museum

Second most-visited University museum globally

7 million objects

zoological type specimens
30,000

6,000 specimen loans made annually

200 active volunteers

£4 million operating budget

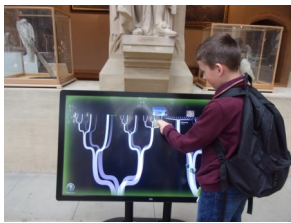
750,000 visitors a year

40,000 students visits

1.25 million web visits

300 events 125 for families

50 museum staff full-time equivalent



The visit was thoroughly enjoyed by our budding palaeontologists, Logan even noticed that the skeleton of the *Iguanodon* was incorrect. It turns out that scientists had thought that it would walk on two legs in a kangaroo-like posture but more recent studies suggest that they were more likely to have walked on all four legs.
Report by Dr A Price, Curriculum Lead of Science

ANOTHER BUSY YEAR

As another academic year comes to an end, a big thank you to our governors who work tirelessly behind the scenes ensuring that pupils receive the best education, as well as being kept safe, and holding leaders to account.

The year started with a visit from Ofsted and the inspectors meeting with a number of governors—the work that had occurred following the previous inspection was recognised and rewarded with our judgement of being a GOOD school. In addition to attending termly meetings, committee meetings and link governor visits, governors completed training as well as supporting the Headteacher in the interview process for the caretaker and teaching assistant posts and reaccreditation of the Leading Parent Partnership Award.

Governors have also attended coffee mornings, Xmas Fayre and recently the Year 11 leavers service.

A very big thank you to Tracy MacDonald (nee Brandwood), Sallyann Tuckwell-Allen, Lee Cross, Rose Burley, Sandra Mills, Leon Donaldson, Di Cadman, Sarah Thornton, Lisa Jones and Jonathan Matthews for their support and commitment to the school.

DIARY REMINDER

A REMINDER THAT PUPILS RETURN ON TUESDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER IN YEARS 8-11.

NEW YEAR 7 PUPILS WILL JOIN ELMWOOD ON MONDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2023.

WISHING YOU A LOVELY SUMMER BREAK .