



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER JUNE 2022 – NO. 178

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FUNDAY FRIDAY ACTIVITIES —27.5.22

The penultimate day of Elmwood's scheduled fundays occurred on Friday 20th May. The whole school participated in a range of activities to enhance pupils' curriculum and support them to be well rounded positive participants in and around our community.

7a and 9b were able to explore our surrounding area and use their investigatory skills to find geocaches in Walsall Arboretum. 7b and 10a explored what it is like to travel independently on public transport, our younger pupils caught the bus to and from Lichfield. 8a gave back to their local community and made planters to decorate Elmwood's outdoor areas. 8b planned their own exciting day out to the cinema. 9a created a fantastic enterprise idea and sold bags of retro sweets to make their initial £10 a whopping £50. 11a enjoyed their last funday altogether and planned a day to WaterWorld! Thank you to staff for extending their day to accommodate this - the pupils had a 'whale' of a time! 11b planned their final day to enjoy the thrills of Telford Park. 10 & 11c enjoyed their final trip with a visit to Twycross Zoo 😊.



I am incredibly proud of my form 10b who decided to give a bit back to our Elmwood community and tidy up the nurture quad area. Two of our Elmwood values are 'Care for others' and 'Care for the Environment' and the group certainly did that as they worked hard all day in the sunshine to clear, weed, and maintain the outdoor area with some great results. Well done team I'm really proud of you for living into The Elmwood Way and working together so supportively. Next stop Transition Quad!!



Years 7 to 10 will participate in one final rotation this academic year on Friday 15th July.

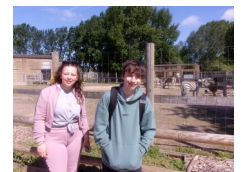
Report by Mrs Francis, Assistant Headteacher

Year 10c/11c - Twycross zoo

We were fortunate enough to visit Twycross Zoo as our Friday experience. Despite a special admission rate being arranged, we found we needed to raise a little extra which was achieved through voluntary contributions. Failing this the money we raised on our enterprise day would have been utilised.



The visit helped to enhance the group's studies at Rodbaston College where they are working towards their qualification in animal care. We were treated to seeing so many animals, but highlights were the zebra, giraffes, various apes and monkeys, orangutans, butterflies, petting goats and for some, meeting the gruffalo!



We were blessed with dry weather and enjoyed our packed lunches in the sunshine. We also enjoyed our McFlurries on return to School. Thanks to Mark and Jade (teaching assistants) who 'herded' the group so well on the day.

Report by Mr Whittaker, Tutor 10/11c, Head of Outdoor Learning.

On Funday Friday on 27th May 11b headed off to Waterworld for their 'plan a day'. Pupils decided as a group where they wanted to go and made a joint decision. They also decided the best way to get there and looked at how much the day would cost, opening times and also travel arrangements to and from the venue.

The day was fantastic and all of 11b had a great time (including the staff). Pupils enjoyed going on the rides, rapids, swimming pool and also falling off the stepping stones countless times. We also enjoyed a nice meal in McDonalds after and then headed back to school.

A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all.

Report by Mr Bullock, Year 11b Teacher

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Martin Hawkes, Assistant Headteacher/PE Teacher



How long have you worked at Elmwood? 9 years but it will be a decade in January 2023

What do you love about your job? The variety, challenge and how rewarding it is seeing our pupils make progress. I enjoy teaching PE and the challenges that comes with it. My favourite sports to teach are Tchoukball and Athletics. Athletics enables all pupils to be great at something as the events are so diverse.

What films have you watched recently? Hustle with Adam Sandler

Favourite Holiday? Travelling around the country of Georgia for 3 weeks in 2018. It put me out my comfort zone as outside the capital it is very remote and we found it very challenging to communicate to others as most people didn't speak English.

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear? I became obsessed with fungi and foraging within the last few years. So much so that last Christmas I was bought 3 different types of mushroom mugs.

KRYSTIAN SHORTLISTED FOR NATIONAL AWARD

Mr Cross, Headteacher, nominated Krystian Kastelik, Year 11 pupil for a national award organised by Engage in their Future.

Krystian has been short-listed for the **International Category** in the 2022 *engage in their future* National Awards. Mr Cross, Headteacher says "this is an example of Krystian's capacity to not only live into the Elmwood Values but also to progress through the schools aims of "Learning The Way, Working Together and Building our Future". Krystian has chosen many adventures throughout his 5 years at Elmwood and this has meant that he really has achieved the schools vision for all "to re-imagining your potential". The whole community is extremely proud of Krystian and this recognition is our way of giving something back to Krystian to say thank you.

The 2022 National Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday 30th June 2022 at the Chesford Grange Hotel, Warwick.

Krystian was thrilled to discover that he had been shortlisted for this award and we wish him every success for the 30th June.

DRAYTON MANOR TRIP



On 8th June, the whole school went to Drayton Manor courtesy of Mrs Francis' dad. Everyone enjoyed the day to let loose, especially as for some of us, it was the last school trip for the year 11's. I know I liked being together as a whole school one more time before the Year 11's leave.

It was also good thing for the new Year 7's as even though we are at the end of our academic year, it would have been the first all school trip.



Report by Rianna, pupil in Year 10b

SCHOOL UNIFORM ORDER REMINDER

If any parents or carers wish to order new uniform items in readiness for the autumn term, can you please complete and return the appropriate order form to Lynn Maritza, School Business, Finance and Operations Manager. A copy of the form is available on the school website, uniform page which you can complete and return via email (lmaritza@elmwood.walsall.sch.uk) or you can order directly on line from A J Designs, our supplier. Alternatively please request a hard copy of the form from the school office.

The deadline to submit any orders is Monday 11th July 2022.



Year 8 trip to the seaside—13.6.22

Year 8 students have been studying travel writing in English and in order to prepare for their written assessment, we decided to take them on a trip to give them a live experience of a new place and hopefully a little bit of inspiration for their writing.

As much as I would have loved to have taken the students to some far flung place, we had to be able to get there and back in one day so we all piled into the school minibuses and made the drive to West Kirby beach. Unfortunately, the tide was out when we arrived and stayed out for the entire time we were there. This didn't stop the students from exploring the rocks for crabs and shells, building sand castles and even walking out to the small island about half a mile from the beach.

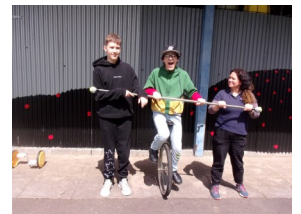
After our day on the sand there was just enough time to squeeze in an (EXPENSIVE) ice cream and a hunt for some souvenirs before piling back into the bus for the journey home. The students were a credit to the school throughout the entire day and there wasn't even any moaning about getting sand in their shoes!

I would like to say a massive 'thank you' to Mr Webb, Miss Clarke, Kerry and Anna for supporting the trip and ensuring that the students have a wonderful day. Report by Mr Damms, Teacher



Tie Dye and Circus Skills

This last half term pupils have enjoyed the return of an old favourite lesson and a new addition to the out and about programme.



Circus skills was reintroduced after a break during COVID, one pupil's response was "you'll struggle to top this activity- its the best one in my 3 years of out and about."



This lesson included juggling, yoyo, diabolo, shuttle ball, slackline, pogo, stilts, balance board and unicycle, which centred upon the virtues of focus and determination.

The new addition saw pupils tie dye their own t shirt (provided by School). Pupils enjoyed the virtues of creativity, gentleness and co-operation. Some pupils wore their t shirts on the Friday funday activities. Mkenzie in Year 7 couldn't wait to come and show the office staff his proud creation.



This activity follows on from the staff enjoying this during their last outdoor learning staff training day, last Summer.

Report by Mr D Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning

DEPUTY HEAD POST

I'm delighted to be able to announce that I will be returning to Elmwood in September as the Deputy Headteacher. Our pupils and staff never cease to amaze me, so continuing to be part of our magical journey together, is something that fills me with pride and excitement. As a school we continue to raise standards in Special Education which is something I am passionate about – but something that doesn't come without a lot of hard work and determination! With the help and support of the staffing team we have already made great strides to making lots of improvements so I'm excited to see where this journey takes us – and even more delighted at being able to lead a part of it.

I wanted to take a moment to thank the pupils who were part of the student council team during my interview—Krystian, Jake, Rianna, Levi, Dilan, Re'shae and Charlie Hurd who were wonderful advocates for the school and presented themselves beautifully throughout the whole process. Despite feeling nervous about the interview myself, I was thrilled for this group of young people who were able to represent the pupils of Elmwood in such a mature and responsible way – well done guys and thank you.

Report by Mrs Francis, Assistant Headteacher

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE



For the Queens Platinum Jubilee we ran an art competition at Elmwood. The

pupils were challenged to produce a piece of bunting which represented "British values" or a British idiosyncrasy. We were overwhelmed by the response from our pupils. Every single pupil created a piece of bunting. We used all of the pupils' submissions to decorate the reception area. There were three prizes up for grabs too! The top three pieces of bunting won a luxury art set!.

The lucky winners were:
Charlie Ann Barfield (Yr 9)
Callum Wilkinson (Yr 10)
Izzy Hough (Yr 9)

Report by Mr J Francis, Lead Teacher of Technologies

STAFFING NEWS

Interviews were held on Thursday 26th May for a deputy head post. Three candidates were shortlisted for interview and we are pleased to confirm that Gemma Francis, Assistant Headteacher, was the successful candidate. A big thank you to our governors Sandra Mills and Sallyann Tuckwell-Allen, for being on the selection panel alongside Mr Cross, Headteacher.

Our lunchtime assistants, Julie Burnell and Caroline Bratt, relinquished their roles at the end of the summer half term. Julie and Carol were responsible for delivering the food from the school kitchen to the various bases. Following these posts being available, pupils had the opportunity to apply to carry out this daily task. We are pleased to confirm that following successful interviews Mckenzie Gonderton, Sennen Gregory and Bradley Hopkins from nurture base are now doing a great job of carrying out this duty. Well done all.

Laura Askins, who has previously worked at the school on placement, will be returning in September to cover the maternity absence of Miss Clarke, English ECT. We look forward to welcoming Laura on to the team.

Leanne Rowledge, has joined the team on supply as a teaching assistant and is quickly settling into the Elmwood way.

Mr Hinsley, Year 7 Teacher, celebrated a special birthday on 15th June and was presented with gifts and cards from staff.

Mr Collins, art teacher, has not been in school for a few weeks and we send him our very best wishes.

Unfortunately Mr Holmes has got to undergo a further operation on his leg so will be absent for a few weeks, we wish him a speedy recovery.

PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT EVENT

A reminder that the summer term progress and achievement event will be taking place on Wednesday 13th July 2022. Your child's form staff will be contacting you shortly to organise a convenient appointment for these one to one sessions when your child's school report will also be available to discuss. We hope that you will be able to attend these appointments - your support is much appreciated.

As a result of the above, pupils will be leaving at **12.30 pm**.

Summer 2022 delivery of Walsall Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF)

HAF is a free and exciting holiday programme for children and young people aged 5 to 16 who are eligible for benefit related free school meals. The programme is running over the summer (4 weeks) and Christmas (1 week) school holidays. The Department of Education (DFE) has provided funding for the programme. The programme enables children to be active, to learn and to eat healthy foods and it is all FREE. Over the summer we are working with 63 providers take a look at who our providers are at: https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children_and_young_people/holiday_activities_programme_haf/who_are_our_holiday_activities_providers

When do the summer activities start?

The activities will take place 4 weeks over the summer holidays see dates below;

- Monday 1st August – Thursday 4th August 2022
- Monday 8th August – Thursday 11th August 2022
- Monday 15th August – Thursday 18th August 2022
- Monday 22nd August – Thursday 25th August 2022

Further details are available on the school website, parents courses and information page or sign up at: https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children_and_young_people/haf_signup

PRICE INCREASE

Unfortunately, due to rising food and energy costs, Walsall Council Catering Department have advised that the price of a school meal will increase by 5p to £2.10 per day from 1st September 2022.

SPORTS DAY

Our annual sports day will be taking place on Monday 11th July 2022 when the 4 house teams will once again be battling it out to see who will be the champions this year.

Parents and carers are warmly invited to come along and watch the event, from approximately 10.00 am to 1.30 pm.

A reminder for parents and carers of the importance of routine immunisations in teens

The national routine childhood immunisation programme has a direct positive impact on the health and wellbeing of children and communities and is vital to reduce the spread of infection and prevent outbreaks. In addition to the flu and COVID-19 vaccines that have been offered to school-aged children this academic year, teenagers are routinely offered 3 vaccines in secondary schools:

human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in Years 8 and 9

menACWY vaccine in Year 9

Td/IPV (3-in-1 booster) in Year 9

The delivery of these routine adolescent immunisation programmes has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccine coverage is still not at pre-pandemic levels. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) are reminding parents and carers about the important protection these immunisations provide. They are also encouraging take up and catch up of vaccinations for anybody who has missed out.

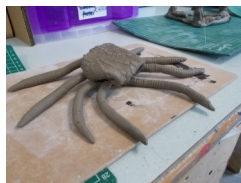
Education and childcare settings have a vital role to play in supporting the routine immunisation programme and have asked for this link to be shared with parents and carers - [UKHSA immunisation guidance— https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities)

ART WORKSHOPS



So far this half term pupils have participated in four different art workshops put on by the team from Walsall Art Gallery.

The engagement and enjoyment from within these sessions has been brilliant to see. Initially the pupils made clay objects such as a Viking mug or a crab.



Then pupils learnt poly and screen print whereby they created a drawing and then printed this onto a different material. Most recently pupils used Moldroc to create a sculpture out of plaster.

We would like to thank both Alex and Kate for leading the sessions for the school; it has been most valuable.

Report by Mr Hawkes, Assistant Headteacher

END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

Building upon the success of the previous two years with regards to the transition from Year 6 to Year 7, we are pleased to announce that we will be welcoming 21 new pupils to our Elmwood Community on Monday 18th – Wednesday 20th July 2022. This will mean that pupils will have the opportunity to see and work with their new teachers and really experience the AWE and WONDER of the Elmwood Way and its curriculum.

In order for us to facilitate this fantastic opportunity pupils in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10's last day of the academic year will be Friday 15th July 2022.

Pupils will be provided with a work book for parents to utilise (if they feel appropriate). I appreciate that this is an earlier departure than initially published at the start of the academic year but I believe is an extremely positive and purposeful example of us demonstrating the school value of "Care for Others". For those who receive transport from the Local Authority I will inform them of the changes.

Report by Mr L Cross, Headteacher

SILVERSTONE VISIT



On Thursday 16th June a selection of 2e maths pupils attended a fabulous STEM day at Silverstone Interactive Museum in Northampton. We walked into the starting tunnel and took our place on a virtual grid, preparing us to travel back through Silverstone's past. On our journey we learned about the racing drivers and mechanics from throughout the years and observed how they prepared the cars to race. We had a beautiful experience of being taken trackside and watching first-hand the Caterham cars roaring around the track; an experience I'm sure will last with the pupils for a lifetime.



We heard all about the corners and straights at Silverstone and learned that each has a name. Pupils asked pertinent questions to our tour guide and learned much information about where the Copse, Stowe and Wellington names come from and the history behind them. As a special treat we were able to try on helmets, test wheels and equipment, and observe, touch and feel hi-tech kit that enables this state of the art motor racing.

Huge thank you must go to Mr Hinsley for arranging such a wonderful experience for our pupils and enabling them to experience how Silverstone became The Home of British Motor Racing.

Report by Mrs Francis, Assistant Headteacher

BUSY TIME IN OUT AND ABOUT

Sheepwash Farm

Our annual Year 7 trip to Sheepwash Farm near Whittington took place on Friday 10th June when all pupils in Year 7, as well as Josh Haycock in 11c, enjoyed an educational and fun day down on the farm! A big thank you to all parents and carers who helped to contribute towards the cost of the visit, which was very much appreciated.



From visiting the cow herd and learning about the growing of crops as varied as asparagus, parsnips, potatoes (for McCoys), barley, wheat (for Warburtons) and enjoying a tractor trailer ride—a great time was had by all. The group also visited Rob Gray's wind turbine and sun tracking photovoltaic panels.

After having lunch at the fishing ponds, we embarked upon the trailer again and had our customary 'dip' of the trailer into the pond. This year, however, the tractor and trailer lost traction and we had a brief wait while Rob's colleague drove another tractor to drag us out of the pond, a big adventure for all.

Malvern trip



On Friday 17th June Josh Till, George Wynn, Josh Evans, Josh Haycock, Bradley Hopkins, McKenzie Gonderton accompanied Hardeep Garcha, TA and myself to the Malvern Agricultural Show. It was a great educational opportunity for Elmwood pupils to become aware of a variety of different careers. Students enjoyed getting involved with the Police and Army stands as well as the Severn Rescue team. We really enjoyed the lumberjack tree climbing race, ferrier competition and blacksmithing. Very popular were the animal marquees - alpaca, goats, bees, chickens, rabbits, pigs, cows and sheep. We also saw tractors, quad bikes and off road



vehicles. The behaviour of the students was exemplary and we were fortunate to have the hottest day of the year. More photographs are available on the photo gallery page of the school website.

Report by Mr D Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning

Front quad

The front of school is looking very welcoming with the addition of the canoe planter (courtesy of Mr Whittaker). With the addition of the picnic table and planted areas (looking good thanks to Lynn in the office), visitors to Elmwood School have a lovely greeting on arrival to school.

