



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2021 – NO. 170

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SAFARI PARK EVENT



A big thank you once again to the Variety Club (especially Charlotte Walker who helped with organising the new e ticket system), which enabled parents/carers the opportunity to visit West Midlands Safari Park on Sunday 17th October 2021 following our application for free tickets in the summer term



Feedback from parents/carers was of a fantastic day out, which was also an additional birthday treat for one of our pupils.

A big thank you to the parents/carers who forwarded photographs from the visit that we were able to share with the Variety Club, some lovely memories from the day.

More photos are available on the school website, photo gallery area.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



On Thursday 30th September 2021, James Hawkins, Family Welfare Officer, together with Ms Shaw, Food Technology Teacher, organised the above event.

This was an ideal opportunity for our new year 7 parents/carers to meet up and enjoy this social gathering. Also in attendance were Tracy Brandwood, Chair of Governors, as well as Jamie Leigh Roberts, one of our parent governors and Di Cadman, former teaching assistant at the School (now an associate member of the governing body).

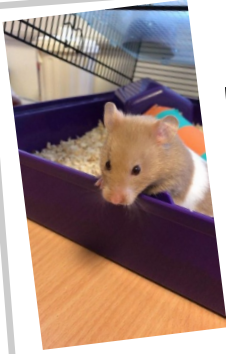
Sallyann Tuckwell-Allen, Vice Chair of Governors, donated a box of delicious croissants which were sold post coffee morning raising a further £8 for this good cause.

The overall amount raised was £125.79, which was a brilliant result.

BACK AT ELMWOOD

I'm Craig and I left Elmwood School in July. I'm now studying media at college but I come into Elmwood every Wednesday morning to help out 9A with their out and about and maths lessons. This is for the volunteering section of my gold Duke of Edinburgh award which I am working towards through Scouts. I started 5 weeks ago and I've helped with air rifle shooting, picking and carving pumpkins, outdoor skills like fire lighting and cooking over a fire and cycling in Sutton Park, which was good fun in the mud. I've been able to use the skills that I learnt at Elmwood when I was a pupil doing these things to help the pupils in 9A. I need to volunteer for at least 12 months and also do a physical challenge (hockey) for 18 months and improve a skill (cooking) for 12 months. I've done a 4 day expedition walking about 60 km with a rucksack on my back and our group had good fun. There's also a 5 day residential working holiday which I'm looking forward to. When I get this award, it will show commitment, determination and that I can work as a team and help others. I'm also having fun doing it! Thank you Elmwood School for helping me achieve the award.

Report by Craig Williamson, former pupil



SAD NEWS

Unfortunately, our school hamster, Hetty, has sadly passed away.

Hetty was a much loved addition to the Elmwood Community and brought a lot of joy to the pupils who helped to care for her.

Kerry Bowen, Teaching Assistant in the nurture base, organised a little farewell ceremony on 28th September when pupils and staff were able to say goodbye.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Elmwood School took part in #HelloYellow on Friday 8th October and helped to raise vital funds to support the work of Young Minds. We are sure you will agree that this is a great cause and this last 12 months has shown us all the importance of looking after our mental health.

Staff and pupils were able to dress in yellow or wear a yellow sticker and donate a £1 resulting in £ 57.50 being raised for this good cause.

Pupils also participated in the HelloYellow mile. The event was run as an inter house competition and the first one of this academic year.

The new year 7's were placed into their team houses and were raring to go and showcase their skills to the rest of the school community.

Every pupil in each house had to complete 4 laps of the field which equated to 1 mile. The time would only be stopped when the final person completed their 4th lap so it was imperative that all pupils motivated each other to complete the 4 laps as fast as they could.

The results for the HelloYellowMile were as follows. In 4th place with a time of 21 minutes was Ennis, in 3rd was Ainslie with a time of 20 minutes and 18 seconds, 2nd was Wiggins with a time of 20 minutes and in 1st place with a super-fast time of 19 minutes and 21 seconds was Murray!

Congratulations to all pupils in Murray for motivating each other to complete their four laps as fast as possible and demonstrating our core values of caring for others!

A special mention goes to Re'Shae Pearman (KS3 – 8 minutes and 30 seconds) and Wesley Martin (KS4 – 7 minutes and 30 seconds) for being the fastest pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4 to complete their HelloYellowMile.

What an amazing achievement!

Report by Ashley Bullock PE Teacher

GOVERNOR NEWS

We are pleased to confirm that we have new governors joining our governing body team.

Sandra Mills has been elected as a co-opted governor and Di Cadman (former teaching assistant at the school) and Sam Allen have become associate members.

A big thank you also to Rose Burley (co-opted governor and Mayor of Walsall), Tracy Brandwood (co-opted governor/Chair of Governors) and Sallyann Tuckwell-Allen (LA governor/Vice Chair) who have all been reappointed for a further four year term of office. Tracy and Sallyann have also agreed to continue as Chair and Vice Chair for a further year, which is much appreciated.

We warmly welcomed our new members on Thursday 14th October when the autumn termly meeting took place. A big thank you to all our new governors for their commitment and support. We look forward to seeing them around school on link governor visits.

Good luck also to Jo Hall, one of our parent governors, who is opening up a new sensory toy shop in Bloxwich on 23rd October 2021. Jake is going to be kept busy!

STAFFING NEWS

Many congratulations to Gemma Francis, Assistant Headteacher, who has successfully completed her Masters degree in Special Education. Very well done to Mrs Francis, what a brilliant achievement.

Many congratulations to Phil Damms, teacher, who is marrying Megan in bonny Scotland on Saturday 30th October. We hope you have an amazing day and send our best wishes for the future together.

POPPIES ON SALE

We are once again supporting the Royal British Legion with the selling of poppies in School. Rianna in Year 10 is doing an excellent job of promoting around school every day.

There will be an opportunity for pupils and staff to purchase one of these poppies daily up to Thursday 11th November when we will be holding our annual remembrance service.

We would request a minimum donation of 50p when purchasing poppies.

KIND DONATIONS



Elmwood would like to say a huge thank you to Lucy Dennis from Help to Make Tummies Full. Not only does she support our pupils and families with Christmas food parcels each year, she also helps them with emergency food parcels should they find that they need that extra support.

Lucy has also donated a LEGO school set that our Nurture groups are enjoying immensely. Lucy's support doesn't stop there! When I asked recently if Lucy knew anyone that could help one of our students with some clothing and a bike, she arrived at Elmwood with bags of clothing and a BMX. Lucy, Elmwood's staff, pupils and families thank you for your support!

Report by James Hawkins, Family Welfare Officer

CAREERS WORKSHOP—30.9.21

A selection of Year 11 pupils (73% of the appropriate cohort) experienced some remote workshops which were carefully selected to support their career aspirations. After some technical difficulties (quickly resolved by Rhys—pupil in Year 11a) pupils were able to interact and make relevant notes following each of the workshops. A massive thanks to all the staff who supported the pupils through this very different experience - and it was apparent how seriously the pupils took the day (based on the quality of notes taken). I am sure the constant refreshments and snacks helped maintain their focus.

Thanks also goes to Wates Construction; KPMG; Rolls Royce and NHS - Introduction to Nursing.

Report by Lee Cross, Headteacher

NEWS FROM OUT AND ABOUT—Pumpkin Collecting

During our annual visit to Sheepwash Farm in the summer term we were introduced to Paul, who has set up a market garden at Sheepwash. Mr Gray also mentioned that Paul would be growing pumpkins and holding Halloween events in the Autumn. These run from 23rd October to 30th October, at Whittington for anyone who is interested. Pupils really enjoyed



the experience and asked lots of questions to Paul the farmer, including how many pumpkins were on his patch—8-10,000! We also had fun weighing the classes collection on the weighbridge and, with one of the groups, we weighed us and the bus as well as then using maths to work out the difference. The biggest 'kids', who went off to see who could find the largest pumpkins (which they then purchased with their own money) were Paul Middleton and Chris Young, teaching assistants.



As we usually buy all the pumpkins from a local store when we carve them in out and about lessons, we saw a perfect opportunity for pupils to collect their own and experience the farm in a different season.



All pupils showed great skill and artistic flair at pumpkin carving and after a tough decision Nathan Walton was the outright upper school winner with his three different faces carved into his one pumpkin.

Pupils have enjoyed this activity and learnt a lot about growing during the autumn as well as other countryside lore/traditions. An example being that the farmer greeted the group with a mole he had caught. The group were fascinated to see this animal close up and see it's claws and soft fur and also the absence of eyes.

Each pupil was also given the opportunity to pick a sweetcorn from the field and were amazed at how juicy and sweet these were eaten raw.



Whilst there we also collected a variety of veg for our front of school harvest display which makes a nice colourful addition to our garden area.

Report by Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning & Mr Holmes, Teacher

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Paul Middleton, teaching assistant.



How long have you worked at Elmwood?

8 years

What do you love about your job?

No day is quite the same! Keeps me on my toes.

What films have you watched recently?

Free guy □□□□

Old □□□

Candyman □□□

Favourite Holiday?

Camping near the sea in South Wales. Looking for shooting stars while relaxing next to a fire on the beach with friends is my happy place.

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear?

I used to have a pet kangaroo called 'Delboy'. When he was small he spent most of the day asleep in a pouch (sewn up jumper) that was tied to me.

FOOTBALL MATCH—1.10.21

Well what another fantastic result for Elmwood. The players boosted ourselves to top of the league after their 6-0 win over the Forge in their first game of the season. The match was full of vigour and excitement and the goals kept coming!

With some great passing in the first five minutes Rhys H was able to open up the field and play Swayvon O'C in to open the scoring and slot one home. Shortly after Swayvon managed to take us to 2-0 with a another calm finish in front of goal. As we closed in on the end of the first half, the ball was scrambled in the opposition's box and Joshua H smashed it home to take Elmwood to a comfortable 3-0 lead into the break.

Some substitutions were made and Elmwood were ready for the second half with fresh legs. The game hadn't been underway for four minutes before Swayvon had an eye for goal on the edge of the area and connected beautifully with a volley from outside the box sending the ball into the top left corner. We were on a roll.

The rest of the second half Elmwood held form and cleaned up every attack made by the opposition. With being constantly solid across the whole pitch, this would only take us from strength to strength and Re'Shae P along with Riley H also managed to get themselves on the scoresheet late into the second half.

The final score finished at 6-0 for Elmwood's first league game. Please congratulate all players involved 🏆
Report by Mr A Bullock, PE Teacher

SCHOOL FUND ACCOUNT

The annual audit of our private school fund account has kindly been done once again by Norma Stamps, Auditor.

These funds are accrued from donations and fundraising events and are used solely for the purpose of supporting pupils. A big thank you to Norma for once again carrying out these task for the School, it is very much appreciated.

NEWS FROM FOOD TECHNOLOGY



On Thursday 30th September we held our annual Macmillan coffee morning. We took this opportunity to invite parents and carers to join us on this first social gathering since the start of the pandemic. As you can see from the photographs we had a great turn out—a chance for all to chat and enjoy themselves.



The new Year 7 pupils, and the BTEC food pupils, were given the job of serving the refreshments along with some homemade cakes which had been made by Years 7, 8 and 9s. A grand total of £125.79 was raised for this very good cause.



October is Black History Month and this is an ideal opportunity for our pupils to taste test some exotic foods from around the world such as chakalaka, biltong, mealie pap, buttermilk rusks from South Africa, Jamaican patties (thank you to Ms Pow, teacher, for bringing them in), spiced buns and cheese.

We all had a fabulous with day with Dianne Foster (Leon Donaldson, teaching assistant's mom) who very kindly came in especially to show the BTEC pupils how to make a very delicious Jamaican chicken curry. A step by step demonstration was shown to us all exploring all the wonderful spices and ingredients that goes into making this dish.



We would like to also thank Dianne for giving up her very valuable time to make a batch of rice and peas for all the staff at Elmwood. They literally flew out once staff realised it was for them!! What an amazing lady so kind and thoughtful.

Report by Ms Shaw, Food Technology Teacher

KIND DONATION

A big thank you to Carli Jones, mom to Tyler and JJ, who kindly donated a number of sensory items to School.

This is very much appreciated and will be very popular with some of our pupils.

TRAINING DAY REMINDER

A reminder that school will be closed on Friday 12th November to pupils as it is a staff training day.

Pupils and staff are welcome to come dressed for Halloween when they return on Monday 1st November.

MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

The first meeting of this academic year took place on 12th October when ambassadors, new and old met with Bev Bailey, James Hawkins, Family Welfare Officers and Mr Cross, Headteacher.

Outstanding actions from the last meeting were discussed which included assemblies, Covid- 19: Risk Assessment (RA)— reset and recovery and emotion check in discussion in comparison to behaviour reward. Answers to queries raised by the members were addressed such as all classes are to wash hands at least 6 times per day due to recent recommendations from Walsall Public Health,

Items raised at this meeting included careers and the transition quad area. Mr Cross explained what was available with regards to our careers programme for pupils in Years 8-11. The transition quad area was in need of some work and suggestions as to what pupils would like were discussed.

Once again the ambassadors represented the school brilliantly and made Ms Bailey proud. A copy of the minutes are available on the school website.