



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022 – NO. 176

www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk



Chemistry @ Work Day The Black Country Museum

News flash; The science nerds perfected time travel back to the Victorian era. What they found was shocking. Children working down the pit, men and women making chains, cramped living conditions and sweets containing poisons, yummy. Oh and Ellie had her shadow stolen. The purpose of the day was to explore links between chemistry and industry. The day began with a demonstration of florescent materials from Wolverhampton University's STEM team, I hope they returned Ellie's shadow. At the coal mine we learnt about the risks taken by young children to extract the coal that once powered the industrial revolution. In the pharmacy, we learnt about some of the chemicals used in medicines from the past and how they were poisonous; this was also the case in the sweet shop. The final session of the day was delivered by South Staffs Water, the pupils were very knowledgeable about the different states of matter and how this related to the water cycle and they engaged well with the presenter asking many relevant questions. Report by Dr Alan Price, Lead Teacher of Science



FUNDAY FRIDAY ACTIVITIES ON 18.3.22



10c and 11c took a trip over to Pendeford nature reserve for their 'giving back' Funday. Pupils were met by Paul the Ranger who introduced us to the horses and Hereford cattle, his spaniel and took us on a tour of the grounds. We discovered the 2,000 year old yew tree that hosts a rare species of bats. There were also muntjac deer as well as cranes, herons and waterfowl in the lake.

After a hot chocolate break, we set into planting young trees to regenerate the woodland. We ended our day there with a picnic in the sunshine watching the bees busy around their hives. Report by Mr D Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning



As part of our Friday Funday programme, on Friday 18th March, 10b planned their own day out to the Black Country museum. The planning section required the pupils to work together in order to make sure all transport issues, entry fees, time lapsed and the day's activities were all considered and agreed on as a group. Then all that was left to do was enjoy a beautiful day in the open-air living museum.



The sun shone making the experience even more memorable while pupils were able to meet historic characters who showed us what it was like to live and work in one of the first industrialised landscapes in Britain. We watched live demonstrations, took part in old fashioned street games and, of course, visited a traditional fish and chip shop. The school Master certainly made an impression when he unexpectedly burst into the school house complete with cane and bellowing voice, and made us

all jump out of our skins and straight into line!!

Being able to wander around the acres of reconstructed shops, houses and dock yards was a real treat and all pupils and staff agreed it is somewhere we would definitely like to return to. The class are already looking forward to the next rotation activity on Friday 27th May where we will be putting back into our local community by giving Elmwood quad areas a face lift and maintaining communal areas. Report by Mrs Francis, Assistant Headteacher



UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Lynne Rymer, School Cook



How long have you worked at Elmwood? I've been working at Elmwood School kitchen for 10 years.

What do you love about your job? I love my job and what's great about it is when I see empty plates come back from my lovely customers I love being Lynne in the kitchen or sometimes I am known as mother duck.

What films have you watched recently? The best film I've enjoyed watching is King Richard it's about the William sisters - fantastic.

Favourite Holiday? I love all my camping trips especially Scotland last year the views were amazing, the bike rides were fantastic

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear? And a little secret I love riding my bike to Lichfield and back

EASTER TREATS

Pupils had a nice surprise when they broke up for the Easter break on Wednesday 6th April when they received an Easter egg. The eggs were funded by our private school fund account and were gratefully received by pupils. In addition, pupils had an extra treat of a chocolate bar thanks to our Vice Chair of Governors, Mrs Tuckwell-Allen in recognition of pupils hard work during the spring term.

FROM EYE SORE TO HIGH SOAR

After a suggestion from our Head of Science, Dr Price, I contacted Manor Farm to arrange for our pupils to tidy the area that separates Elmwood School and Manor Farm. Elmwood pupils removed and sawed up trees using the bush saw, collected rubbish including two huge piles of old carpet and swept the area of moss and debris.



The reward has been that we now have a space we can utilise for a simple abseil and climb on the sloped area viewed from the school's sports hall.



Pupils have enjoyed both phases of the project, as they spoke of the satisfaction of tidying an area and seeing the improvement from their labours.

The abseil has proved both fun and more challenging than some first considered.

Report by Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning.

STAFFING NEWS



Kerry Bowen, Teaching Assistant, celebrated a special birthday on Wednesday 30th March when she arrived to school to find a balloon archway in reception to mark the occasion. Kerry was showered with gifts and cards to mark this special occasion.



Jo Hughes, teaching assistant, has managed to raise £250 for Breast Cancer Now following her challenge to run 100k during March. What a fantastic achievement, well done Jo.



Mr Holmes continues to improve and was actually able to make into school for the last day of the spring half term, which was good to see. We look forward to hopefully welcoming Mr Holmes back later this term.

SURPRISE VISIT

Staff and pupils had a nice surprise when on Monday 28th March Tina Lloyd, former Assistant Head at the school visited. Tina moved to Spain in 2020 and still keeps up to date with what is happening at Elmwood through our school newsletter (sometimes spotting it within a couple of hours of being posted on line). It was lovely to see you Ms Lloyd.

STEM VISIT—31.3.22

On Thursday 31st March a number of pupils identified as 2e (twice exceptional), and those who have also been selected as maths ambassadors for the school, attended a trip to the MAD (Mechanical Art & Design) museum in Stratford upon Avon to stretch their understanding of STEM subjects. When we arrived pupils started to look around and explore, they first found a giant marble game that required pupils to work in pairs to solve, following this pupils created their own marble run game where the aim was to get a marble from one end of the room to the other without it touching the floor in the most inventive way. Pupils then took some time to make their way around all the interactive stations. After we had finished at the museum we headed to McDonald’s as a reward for all the hard work that the pupils have put in over the course of the year. The next trip for 2e pupils is to the home of motorsport and Formula 1 in the middle of June. Report by Mr Hinsley, Year 7 Form Teacher



ANIMAL VISIT 22.3.22



The rumour quickly spread that there might be snake in the school lab, screams were heard throughout the building but some brave souls ventured in to find out more. The purpose of the visit was to allow pupils to have a close up encounter with animals that play an important role to sustaining balance within ecosystems. Some of the animals were detritivores, these recycle dead leaves or rotting fruit on the forest floor into nutrient rich soil. Other animals were important for seed dispersal ensuring the continuation of many plant species. Throughout the day the pupils acted as presenter’s giving information about each animal and asking questions, mostly can I take the animal home with me. Laura Harris from the Animal Man stated on leaving that teachers made her feel very welcome; the children were very well behaved and they even presented for her and that she thoroughly enjoyed her day. Report by Dr Alan Price, Lead Teacher of Science



SUPER ATTENDERS

Well done to the following pupils who all achieved 100% attendance for the spring term—what a fantastic achievement. All pupils will receive a certificate and £5 gift voucher in the assembly on 6.5.22.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Mkenzie Gonderton | Bradley Hopkins |
| Charlie Hurd | Nathan Coley |
| Libby Leach | Sennen Gregory |
| Rianna L | Swayvon O’Connor |
| Cody Love Knight | Nathan Scott |
| Carson Price | Samuel Ashbery |
| John Southall | Aidan Garbett |
| Joshua Till | George Wynn |
| Charlie Haddock | Francis Gosling |
| Miles Hall | |

Congratulations also to the following staff who were also able to make it into work every day for the spring term:

- James Francis
- Simon Wood
- Ashley Bullock
- Tracey Pow
- Charlotte Clarke
- Hilary Shaw
- Dawn Canham
- Joanne Hughes
- Anna Cahira
- Tracy Jackson
- Beverley Bailey
- Caroline Bratt

Park That Bike



On February 4th 2022, we received a flyer from “Park That Bike” offering some free

cycle parking options. We decided to go for the Plantlock Planters, which are freestanding bike parking stations.

We were lucky enough to be successful and our planters arrived on March 18th. They are now planted up in our front quad area and ready for use. They brighten up a dull corner and will be useful for anyone wanting to cycle to school. Report by Lynn Maritza, School Business, Finance & Operations Manager

THEATRE VISIT CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHTTIME

A number of pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 were treated to a night at the theatre on 29th March 2022 when they accompanied staff to watch the Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime at Birmingham Hippodrome. Pupils remained after school ahead of the show, stopping off for some food on route to the performance. The trip was organised by the English Department to support pupils literacy work having recently studied this piece of work.



Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the show despite a late return to school (11 pm!). A very big thank you to the parents and carers who forwarded any voluntary contributions towards the cost of the trip, which was very much appreciated. Thank you also to the staff, Mr Damms, Mr Bullock, Ms Clarke and Ms Bowen for giving their time to accompany pupils and making it into work the next day!

PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

It was lovely to welcome parents and carers back into school for our termly progress and achievement event on Wednesday 30th March now that COVID restrictions have been lifted. This was an ideal opportunity for parents and carers to speak with their child's form staff as well as with the senior leadership team. During these appointments progress made by your child during the spring term was discussed and copies of their spring term school report shared. As a result of this, it was pleasing to see 94% of parents and carers took part in either a one to one interview or a telephone consult; by working together we can ensure the best results for pupils. For information the summer term progress and achievement event will take place on Wednesday 13th July 2022.

Elmwood's first Careers Expo – March 30th 2022

Lee Cross (Headteacher) set me a challenge to organise a Careers Expo for our young people, so that they could see what training or careers might be available for them when they leave school. I did some research and got in touch with Rob Beck, Employer Engagement Officer at Walsall Council, who has lots of experience in arranging such events. I persuaded Paul Croke (Site Manager) to help me with the project and he drafted a flyer to advertise our event.



After meeting with Rob, we arranged for six companies to come and introduce themselves to the pupils and for the young people to have the opportunity to ask questions. The event was held during our Progress and Achievement day, when years 8 to 11 visited in their class groups with their staff.

The day was a great success. Pupils seemed to enjoy the visits. They had the chance to dress up and were given lots of goodies. Feedback from the companies involved was that the pupils were a credit to the school and that the day was well organised – they particularly enjoyed the free lunch! (Feedback comments are available on our website.) We hope that the event next year will be even better.



Thanks to Rob Beck, Paul Croke and to the companies involved - In-Comm Training, Barhale, Walsall College, Handelsbanken, One Stop and Nova Training. Also thanks to our pupils, who were brilliant and demonstrated our school values perfectly.

Report by Lynn Maritza, School Business, Finance & Operations Manager

DT CHALLENGE



Mr Francis, Curriculum Lead for Technologies, was set a challenge to make a suitable holder for our reception area to house visitor comment forms. Within 2 hours not only did we have one made, but also an added extra of a matching pen holder. A big thank you to Mr Francis on his brilliant handiwork.

READING RAFFLE

At the end of the spring term the reading raffle prize draw took place giving pupils the opportunity to win a £10 Amazon gift voucher, having received a raffle ticket following reading a set number of pieces.

Competition was high this term with a large number of pupils (104 tickets in the box) which is brilliant. The two lucky winners were Wezley in Year 11 and Joseph in Year 8—so very well done to both boys and enjoy spending your vouchers. Keep up the great work as you have got to be in it, to win it.