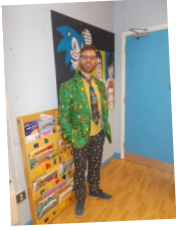




# ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER MARCH 2022 – NO. 175

www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk

## MENTAL HEALTH WEEK



Children's Mental Health Week 2022 took place from 7-11 February. This year's theme was Growing Together. We encouraged children (and adults) to consider how they have grown and how they can help others to grow. During the week the pupils undertook a daily challenge within their tutor groups. On the Friday we hosted a Dress to Express day and encouraged pupils to wear something expressive or something that shows off their personality. The daily challenges focused on five areas of mental health and gave tutors the opportunity to challenge their pupils through



the week. The five areas of mental health are under the banner of PERMA. Positive Emotion, Engagement, Relationships, Meaning and Achievement. As a school we currently place a high focus on children's mental health. It was great to see that the Dress to Express day gave pupils the opportunity to express themselves and show off their personality. This is another chance for pupils to build empathy and tolerance towards others and accept others for who they are. We already look forward to next year's event. Report by Mr M Hawkes, Assistant Headteacher

## CELEBRATING WORLD BOOK DAY WEEK



It is recognised that 'reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator for success in life, more than family circumstances, educational background, or income' (Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development). Sharing stories together for just ten minutes a day will encourage a love of reading and it's fun for everyone! You can read together anywhere and everywhere, from breakfast to bedtime! In the park, on the train, on the sofa, on a plane – reading and sharing stories can happen anywhere at any time.



So this year, instead of just one day we extended the celebration into a whole week. Pupils experienced literature from around the world and across time. From Pakistan to the American deep south, pupils read and enjoyed the texts and multicultural food too.

Nurture had a virtual author visit, linked to their curriculum, that enabled them to learn how to 'think like a writer.'

Students and staff across the school rose to the challenge and arrived on World Book Day as a variety of fabulous characters. From Frankenstein's monster to Gangsta Granny, there was variety alongside creativity. Well done Elmwood!

Best costume was judged on three aspects - creativity, effort and originality. The winners were as follows:

Nurture - Bradley H dressed as Pinocchio

Transition - Jordan O'B, dressed as the tree from A Good Day for Climbing Trees

Pathways - Jack Hu dressed as Coils the Birthday Clown



Congratulations to the above pupils who will be receiving their prizes in the assembly on 1st April. Report by Mr C Bowen, Lead Teacher of English and Charlotte Clarke, English ECT

## UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Kerry Bowen, Teaching Assistant.



**How long have you worked at Elmwood?** I think it's 14 years now, wow! I started when we first moved into the current site we're on now. However I did have my interview at the old site, when it was called Daw End.

**What do you love about your job?** I love the fact no day is ever the same and the pupils make me laugh each and every day, I also enjoy making them laugh. I also work with a great team, who make Elmwood magic and hold each other together.

**What films have you watched recently?** My favourite all time film is *Sleepless in Seattle*.

**Favourite Holiday?** My favourite place to be is the Mumbles in South Wales. My dad and his family are from there, so it's like a second home to me, plus it's so beautiful.

**Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear?** I often meditate, it helps me to relax. I have recently taken up gong bathing! (Google it) and I love it.

### PRIZE WINNER



Well done to Mrs Francis, Assistant Headteacher, who signed up to the Get Set to Eat Fresh today with Aldi back in November. In addition to being able to download free curriculum linked resources, watch exclusive videos with Team GB athletes, she

was also entered into a prize draw to win a pair of plushies.

We were pleased to find out on 11th March that we had been selected and took delivery of Kevin and Cuthbert the caterpillar who are settling well into their new home!

### SCHOOL CLOSURE REMINDER

**A reminder that school will be closed to pupils on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th April for our health and safety days.**

**Pupils will therefore return after the Easter holidays on Monday 25th April 2022.**

### STAFFING NEWS

We were pleased to welcome Mr Damms, Teacher in pathways base, back into school on Monday 28th February; Mr Damms has been missed and it is great to have him back on the team.

We were hoping that Mr Holmes, who hurt his knee back in January resulting in an operation, would be back after the Easter break. Unfortunately he is going to have to take it easy for a bit longer but fingers crossed he will be back in May. Take care Mr Holmes.

Unfortunately Corinna Harvey, teaching assistant, decided after spending a week in post that Elmwood was not the right place for her and ended her time at the school. We are currently advertising this vacant post.

Lynne the cook unfortunately fractured her wrist on 2nd March and was not able to work as a result. A big thank you to Tracy who came in and made sure everyone was fed during this absence. Lynne was able to return to work on 28th March, so welcome back Lynne.

Congratulations to Paul Middleton, teaching assistant, who will be taking on the roll of an unqualified teacher at the school from the 1st April 2022.

Jo Hughes, teaching assistant in 11b, set herself a challenge during mindful March to run 100 km and helping to raise money for Breast Cancer Now. If you would like to sponsor Jo and donate to this good cause, a link to her Justgiving page is on the main page of the school website. Jo managed to complete this mammoth task on 23.3.22 so many congratulations and we hope you raise lots of money for this good cause.

### EASTER MULTI SPORTS HOLIDAY CAMP

Details of the above camp, together with information on weekly SEND football sessions, that have been organised by the Albion Foundation are on the parents/carers courses and information page of our school website.

ON LINE SENSORY TOY SHOP  
Please see details below from one of our parents.

My name is Joanna Hall, and I am the owner of a retail store and online sensory toy shop. Sentire-Sensory UK provides many sensory products, and is based in Walsall, West Midlands. Sentire-Sensory UK prides ourselves on offering a personalised service at an affordable price.

When my son was going through assessments and diagnosis for additional needs, I struggled to find products that would help him with sensory overload, communication, emotions and anxiety. Also, when I found products, they were either too expensive or very poor quality from abroad. It became my passion to help others going through the same struggles I had, so I decided to start my own online shop selling to people in the same boat.

I was employed by the NHS as a nurse for twenty-two years, in which the last five years was as a school nurse. When I was made redundant, I decided now was the time to share my passion and help others. Since 2019 I began selling online on my website, Also I sold on Amazon and Ebay, and then in October 2021 I opened a retail store in Bloxwich, Walsall. Please look at the link below to view my website—[www.sentiresensoryuk.com](http://www.sentiresensoryuk.com)

As a professional business, Sentire-Sensory UK is fully insured and can invoice at request. There is no maximum or minimum size order, as I sell to parents and larger organisations including schools, councils and a variety of residential homes. If you have any questions, my contact details are:

Joanna Hall, 248a High Street, Bloxwich, Walsall, West Midlands Mobile: 07742269628 , Email: [sentire-sensory-uk@hotmail.com](mailto:sentire-sensory-uk@hotmail.com)

ENTERPRISE EVENT—9.3.22

Year 9 pupils welcomed two Enterprise Co-Ordinators (Sally Stone and Jo Rasmin) and a volunteer, to lead an enterprise morning linked to the Commonwealth Games 2022. This was part of the school's involvement in the HIP careers project, in conjunction with the Black Country Consortium, of the effectiveness of careers experiences on pupils attitudes and beliefs in relation to careers education across the Black Country.

The task was well suited to the creative flair of our pupils but also built upon the school's focus on developing appropriate communication in addition to enhancing our current careers education. It was with great pleasure that I had to judge the product and presentation and particular highlights were Ellie and Charlie's dance routine at the start (to try and WOW me) and the detailed explanation of the chip entrance by Cody. Rachael Maybank, our independent careers adviser, was also able to witness the presentation and was suitably impressed. The overall winners were Team 9a , The Ballers.

All pupils contributed (all be it some more than others) but we saw lots of bravery and courage. Below are some of the positive feedback comments received:

Sally Stone from SIPS Education stated that she visits schools daily and never seen the process of being given a golden ticket which can be awarded to a pupil during the visit. I really loved this idea and thought it was a great way not only to encourage conversation between visitors and pupils but to understand the values embedded and be able to reward those.

Jo Rasmin from Black Country Consortium stated—'I was so encouraged to see how the students took on this challenge (even working through their break). The group that I worked with were so eager to win, particularly encouraged to see how one particular student nudged his way forward to sit with the rest of the group when delivering the project to the Headteacher, when initially he was reluctant to be involved at all. Staff support was excellent and they got involved with the students.

Rachael Maybank, Independent Careers Adviser, stated it was great to see the Year 9 students working well together as a team, coming up with some really imaginative ideas and seeing them taking on different roles within their team that played to their strengths. Some fantastic presentations too. Well done Year 9 and I look forward to catching up with you all again soon to discuss your job ideas for the future.

Report by Mr L Cross, Headteacher

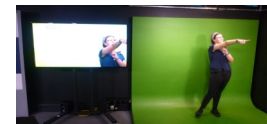
## YEAR 9 KIDZANIA VISIT—10.3.22



Aligned to the school's careers education curriculum, pupils in Year 9 were provided the opportunity to experience Kidzania, London as a means of exploring a variety of careers, raise aspirations and also understand the importance of how tax and national insurance contributions affect our salaries. Year 9 is an integral year for pupils to look at which options in Key Stage 4 could support their pathway to Post-16 and beyond. Pupils enjoyed their time and really embraced the creative way of experiencing many careers. Reece and Cody were also praised on their behaviour when supporting an upset primary pupil who was separated from their group – The Elmwood values being demonstrated within the real world. Pupils and staff also enjoyed a nice meal all together at Beaconsfield services, which broke up the long journey back to Walsall.



A massive thanks to the staff for their enthusiasm and support with this trip and to the parents who supported a later collection of their child. More photos are available on the photo gallery page of the school website. Report by Mr Wood, Year 9 teacher/Mr Cross,



## BOCCIA TOURNAMENT—9.3.22

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 7b took part in the semi-finals of the Black Country Boccia tournament. We had to be at the leisure centre near Dudley for 9.30 am, which was quite a rush. We arrived to a very well organised event and you could feel the tension in the air. We were directed to the courts where we would be playing and given a quick reminder of the rules.



There were also some young people from the local school acting as referees and we found out that they were working towards their Sports Leadership Certificate. John really enjoyed helping them when he wasn't playing. 7b played well and showed fantastic sportsmanship when they lost which made Miss Pow and Hardeep really proud to be their tutor team.

Staff were told that they were not allowed to enter the area sectioned off with blue tape but Hardeep found this really difficult. She wanted to keep offering coaching advice during play and had to be reminded by Miss Pow to stay behind the line. The competition was very close and 7b got as far as the play offs for a medal which was amazing. After a tremendous battle right to the end, they were sadly pipped at the post by another school.

However, though they may have come home empty handed as far as medals, they were full to the brim with happiness after having a really fun time.



Better luck next time 7b... you did Elmwood proud by being such excellent ambassadors for the school. Thank you to Mr Bullock, PE Teacher for doing all the organising around 7b being able to take part in the tournament. Report by Miss Pow, 7b Class Teacher

## FOOTBALL MATCH REPORT—11.3.22

WRITTEN BY RHYS HUMPHRIES (YR 11) AND JAKE HALL (YR 10) PUPILS

A very tough game playing top of the league, but the boys showed character throughout and played better than them away from home. Unfortunately, we had no substitutes whereas, they had about six. In the game, Rhys Humphries scored a wonderful goal to equalise the game and in the second half, a beautiful lofted pass by Rhys Humphries over the defence of our opposition to Joshua Haycock, who switched positions, managed to bring the ball down and smash it home. Wezley played his very first game in goal this fixture and he made some incredibly important saves at times to keep us in the game. Various balls were played over the top by Rhys Humphries and Riley Higgs, Cameron Willetts, who managed to make two chances within the first thirty seconds of the second half. Riley Higgs and Jake Hall put in a great performance at the back, making crucial tackles and pushing the ball forwards and up the pitch. Re'Shea was once again a key player within the match but the opposition were unfortunately just too big and strong for us on this occasion. At the end of the day, Elmwood lost, however, we played better with positivity capping off an amazing match. A credit to all pupils who took part.