



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023 – NO. 188

www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk

FUNDAY FRIDAYS

Funday Fridays are a curriculum enhancement that looks to support your child’s personal development – in addition 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: A hike up the Wrekin, enterprising, travel training, community work, team building and creating a class assembly!

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

Nurture	Transition	Pathways
<p>7a worked as a united team showing co-operation, respect and resilience as they supported each other in making their way to the top of the Wrekin.</p> <p>7b have created an assembly that will be shared with whole school this week – we cannot wait to see it!</p> <p>7c ventured to the local supermarket, stocked up with provisions and worked together to create amazing milkshakes and brownies that were sold to grow a tenner. They managed to make a profit too so well done team.</p> <p>8a tackled public transport and used their pathfinding skills to get to Lichfield city. There was time to enjoy the park and pupils showed their caring side when a small child approached and asked for their help (that of course they gave) Thank you for representing us so positively in the community.</p> <p>8b contributed to making our local community a tidier place by litter picking Rushall park. Pupils were upbeat and caring and interacted with the public showing respect, compassion and consideration. Fab job!</p>	<p>9a were enterprising extraordinaires and fed virtually the whole school with delicious Jerk chicken and macaroni cheese which was amazing (and unsurprisingly very well received) Their good nature and generosity may have hindered how much money they actually made but what they did do was make full hearts and warm tummies.</p> <p>9b worked like trojans and overhauled several areas within Elmwood. The chicken coup is now ready to receive new residents and looks fabulous. This was a tough job that showed the group demonstrate real grit and determination.</p> <p>Year 10s planned their own day’s activities and decided to enjoy each other’s company by going for a meal. They enjoyed relaxed social times and ended the day on a really positive note which has set them up for another half term of hard work and good focus.</p>	<p>Year 11s showed real strength of character and decided to complete tasks and assignments as they bring their Elmwood journey to its final chapter. They were still able to enjoy some teamwork and reflecting exercises – these pupils definitely benefit from seeing how far they’ve come and the team around them are incredibly proud of how they have conducted themselves in school during their final weeks. Well done Year 11.</p>
		<p>The mixed group have worked together to make us an assembly that will be delivered on a Friday morning in the not too distant future!</p>

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Gemma Francis, Deputy Head.



How long have you worked at Elmwood? 3162 days 😊

What do you love about your job? I love being a form teacher first and foremost. The relationships I develop with pupils in my form make them very precious to me. I hope I support them enough to help them make even one more positive choice as an adult that they might not have done had we not spent time together. I hope for them I made a tiny bit of difference - in a good way.

What films have you watched recently? Went to the pictures to see Dungeons and Dragons. I don't get to the cinema very often but when I do I always really enjoy it and wonder why I don't go more often!

Favourite Holiday? Probably Texas - really cowboys are quite scary but super cool! From touring Houston, Dallas and Austin we ended up in Galveston which is a stunning place. All the houses are built on stilts so that when the hurricanes hit (they do this quite often) the water runs under the buildings and doesn't damage them, instead of washing them away.

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear? I was in Team GB for Karate and won the gold medal at the European Championships. Now I play and umpire netball instead of doing martial arts - I would love to become a Super League umpire.

SPRING TERM REWARD TRIPS

On Friday 21st April pupils who had achieved either gold, silver and bronze status were awarded with a reward trip. All but two pupils qualified and were able to have a fun day off site.

Gold Trip—this term's gold trip was a visit to Vortex, a gamers mecca at resorts world Birmingham. We started the day off with a Five Guys milk shake and then made our way over to Vortex where the pupils were each given a contactless card loaded with credits to spend on any one of the arcade machines on site. To make things even better, winning a game accrued tokens which were added to the pupils' contactless cards which they could spend at the Vortex shop at the end of the session. Harry in Year 7 certainly demonstrated values from the Elmwood Way with kindly using his tokens to purchase a gift for his mom and Logan in Year 9 was thrilled to win a Mario toy from one of the grabbing machines. The pupils had a great time, and all agreed it was one of the best trips ever! Report by Mr Francis, Trip Lead



Silver trip— Elmwood's silver reward trip was to JumpXtreme in Tamworth. 36 pupils had the opportunity to bounce for over an hour with exclusive hire of the venue. Pupils had many games of dodgeball and practiced their skill on the trampolines jumping into the air bags. Following an excited time jumping, pupils were invited to a buffet lunch in the cafe where they were given pizzas, chips, sandwiches and lots of other tasty snacks!



All pupils demonstrated the school's core values and cared for themselves, others and the environment. It has given the pupils the drive to be 1% better each week and aim for gold this term! Thank you to all the staff involved in the trip that made the day go so smoothly and the pupils for their perfect behaviour. Report by Mr Hinsley, Trip Lead



Bronze trip—a group of bronze reward students went out for the day at Sandwell Valley Park in what turned out to be quite challenging weather conditions. Some students opted for a walk, while others chose to cycle. After lunch some time was spent in the play park. Well done to all for remaining positive throughout the day. Report by Mr Price, Trip Lead

WALSALL SENDIAS INFORMATION

The spring newsletter produced by Walsall SENDIAS is available on the parents/carers page of the school website. The newsletter contains details of workshops and other useful information for parents and carers.

SCHOOL SUPPORT

Mr Whittaker has been working with Butts Primary school's staff in his role as SLE, Specialist Leader in Education for Outdoor Learning, and has helped to train two of their staff in how to use their school grounds more effectively. This involved developing an 11 week programme of activities for the summer term that the staff can deliver safely on site and, in their surrounding area. This included orienteering and creating two base maps of the school grounds, English, Maths and Science activities based outdoors but, most importantly, the school wanted activities that engage their pupils with the outdoors at a sensory level. This was a need developed by Butts Primary as their pupils' opportunities to play outdoors, out of school can be limited. This has involved practical training in Earth Education (Steve Van Matre) activities and also Joseph Cornell exercises.

Mr Whittaker plans to return to the school in the autumn to extend the programme and training into the winter.

Report by Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning

CELEBRATING THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III



Elmwood School joined in with the festivities ahead of the King's Coronation on Friday 5th May. Staff and pupils came dressed in red, white and blue, the bunting was out and display boards updated for the occasion. Pupils also made fidget spinners as a fun activity, kindly produced by Mr Francis, DT Teacher. Pupils who attended craft club with Shelli George, Teaching Assistant, made some commemorative key rings which George and Nathan in Year 8a kindly gave to Lynn and Dawn in the office.



A good day was had by all.



Coalface to Wildspace



Students from key stage 3 have been involved with a new project in the Walsall area that is helping to build connections with nature.

Coalface to Wildspace is an exciting, new project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the West Midlands Combined Authority.

There has previously been very little focus on amphibian and reptile conservation in this region, so this project will raise awareness through public engagement, improve habitat through community interventions, and bring attention to local heritage.

Future Events

23rd May – Wildlife Gardening Workshop with Music Box Nursery

30th May – Hibernaculum Wildlife Gardening Workshop at Goscote Greenacres from 10:30am to 12:30pm

3rd June – Wildlife Gardening Workshop at Borneo Street Allotment – time TBC

22nd June – Wildlife Gardening Workshop at Q3 Academy

29th July – Pop-up Wildlife Gardening Workshop at Brownhills Summer Fest

For information and booking please contact - info@froglife.org

Report by Dr Alan Price, Curriculum Lead of Science



BIKEABILITY TRAINING



On Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th May, both 8a and 8b took part in a Bikeability awareness course. This course enabled pupils to learn and practice new awareness skills to keep them safe when biking in and outside of school and the local community. Josh, Paul, George, Levi and Julian were able to achieve their Level 2 Bikeability awareness pass; also, Ty was able to achieve her Level 1 Bikeability pass. With the help of Mark Trahearn, Teaching Assistant, it was a great day watching pupils in 8a take part in the course. When observing the pupils involved on the day, there were various virtues being shown such as awareness, patience, concentration, courage and determination. Also thank you to the neighbours in the community who offered shelter to 8a pupils during the crazy outburst of rainy weather.

On Wednesday 10th May, 8b continued with the same positive spirit which enabled Aidan, Sam, Bradley, JJ and John to complete and achieve their Level 2 Bikeability pass. 8b showed strengths of patience, determination, enjoyment and happiness mixed with virtues of responsibility, awareness, patience, respect, self-discipline and concentration—all whilst learning how to be more aware on their bikes in the local community. With the help and support of Nicole Rose, Teaching Assistant, these pupils in 8b were able to achieve a Level 2 pass. In the words of Bradley who said 'I loved how I got to learn road safety skills on the bike, I am extremely proud of what I achieved, and I am very grateful for the opportunity of Bikeability. Pete and Carol were so kind and helpful, they encouraged me to cross the road safely. It has been my best day ever and I loved taking part in the Bikeability course and have learnt so much such as looking over my shoulders and using hand signals.

A big well done to Yr 8 overall as they were able to ride safe, stay safe and overall complete the course keeping safe in the local community. Well done Year 8 it was a rewarding experience for you all.



Also, a big thank you to Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning for organising this for the pupils and to Mark, Nicole and Kerry (teaching assistants) for their help and support with encouraging those pupils who took part. Report by Leon Donaldson, Teaching Assistant

GET WELL MESSAGES

Unfortunately our annual visit to Sheepwash Farm in Whittington, Nr Lichfield, will not be able to go ahead this summer due to Rob Gray, the farmer, having to go into hospital for an operation.

Both staff and pupils have previously had very memorable visits to the farm who have provided quality opportunities and experiences for our young people. We are very grateful for these opportunities that have been provided not only free of charge but have also been fun as well as educational day visits to the farm.



Pupils helped Shelli George, teaching assistant, to make Rob a get well card so that we can pass on our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

We look forward to catching up next year.

Robins nest!



We have some new 'pupils' in school, at least two fledgling robins have been born in the boiler house.

We are not sure if they've left home yet, so everyone is being considerate when going in and out!

Report by Mr Holmes, Teacher

STAFFING NEWS

Grant Hunt, teaching assistant, is continuing to improve following his recent operation and is hoping to be back after the half term break.

Unfortunately Bev Bailey, Family Welfare Officer, has not yet been able to return to work following her recent illness but hopes to return shortly.

Jade Lunt, teaching assistant, has also been unwell and off work for a few weeks. Jade is now improving and also hopes to return after the half term break.

We wish everyone a speedy recovery and send our very best wishes.

EXAM TIME

Pupils in Year 11 are currently sitting their end of Key Stage 4 examinations ahead of ending their time at Elmwood School at the end of June 2023.

We wish all of our pupils the very best of luck in achieving the qualifications that will assist them on the next stage of their education journey.

Parents, staff and governors will be able to join in our leavers assembly on Tuesday 4th July when we will be able to celebrate their achievements during their time at Elmwood.