



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2016 – NO. 110

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MORE NEWS ON WORLD BOOK DAY

On World Book Day, which took place on 3rd March, all students received a World Book Day token, entitling them to a free book from a selection or money off any book of their choice in shops taking part in the scheme.

Pupils in Nurture took part in a range of activities which included a quiz, and a timed 'escape' challenge, organised by Paul Middleton, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Pupils also found out how books donated by us could help others through Oxfam's Message in a Book campaign. If anybody would still like to donate a book, that is in good condition, can it please be sent into school by Friday 6th May 2016 so that these can be passed on to Oxfam. Many thanks.

Report by Ms Lloyd, Assistant Head

KIND DONATIONS

We have recently been fortunate to receive equipment donations from other local Schools.

Rushall JMI have helped to enhance our drama department with additional staging. This will complement our existing set up and will soon be put to good use by Mr Webb, Drama Teacher.



Oakwood School have donated a 'safespace' structure which is an area that a pupil can use when anxious to help deescalate their behaviour. This has been sited in our nurture group area and will hopefully be put to good use.

Finally St Thomas More School have donated a vacuum sanding table for use in DT which again will be a useful piece of equipment.

WILD THING

Whilst there was no sign of Samuel L Jackson, or indeed a plane, key stage 4 pupils had to face snakes in the classroom when Bryan Patterson from Wildlife Displays joined Elmwood for the day on 23.3.16.

Not only did pupils learn about how animals adapt to their environments, they also had the opportunity to get up close and personal with this slippery customer!



Hearts were set a flutter by a barn owl with pupils experiencing how a professional falconer handles a bird of prey. The learning then became more than a little creepy, courtesy of a Chilean rose tarantula. Whilst the eight-eyed South American visitor did not appeal to all, a fellow South American – a chinchilla – met with more universal approval.



Overall the joint Science and English educational event was a resounding success; pupils and staff commented on how much they had learnt about key topics covered in both subjects. However the jury is still out on whether the pupils or staff most enjoyed Elmwood's walk on the wild side!

Report by Mr Bowen, English Teacher

Spring Attendance

Our overall attendance for the Spring Term was 86.74% (9.82% authorised and 3.44% unauthorised) which is well below the acceptable guidelines of 95% . Please encourage your child to attend School wherever possible.

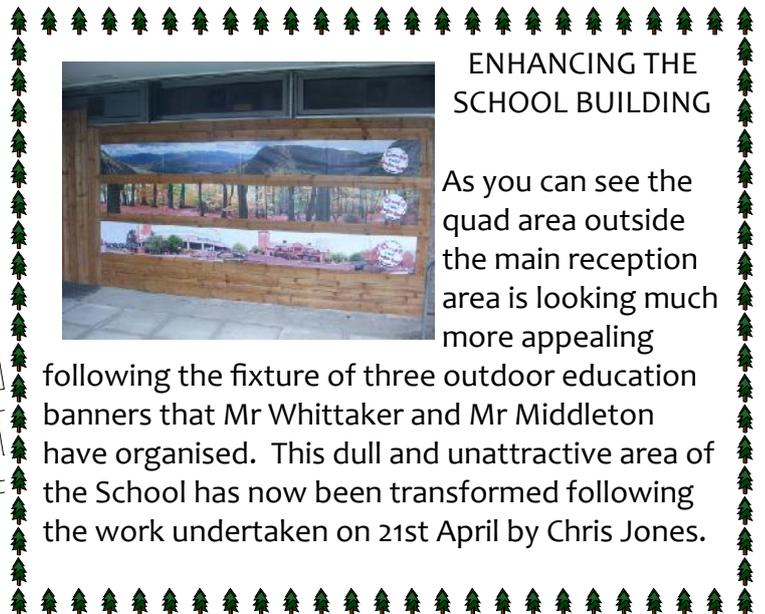
However twelve students managed to achieve 100% attendance from 4th January to 24th March 2016 who were:

Thomas Carter
George Cocking
Levi Dingley
Simon Farrington
Callum Groom
Jordan Hathaway
Rico Maritza-Yates
Cythian Ogunbodede
Tyrone Peakman
Bradley Ravenscroft
Shani Scott
Jordan Williams

So far this year three pupils have achieved 100% attendance from September who are Thomas Carter, Cythian Ogunbodede and Tyrone Peakman—which is a fantastic achievement - hopefully they will be able to continue this during the summer term. Well done all.

Spring Term Reward Trips

All pupils who had achieved bronze, silver or gold status were rewarded on the 15th April with trips to various activities. Bronze pupils enjoyed a trip to the cinema, silver had fun trampolining and gold had a choice of either Waterworld or Laserquest. Feedback from staff was very positive with pupils thoroughly enjoying their well earned reward.



ENHANCING THE SCHOOL BUILDING

As you can see the quad area outside the main reception area is looking much more appealing

following the fixture of three outdoor education banners that Mr Whittaker and Mr Middleton have organised. This dull and unattractive area of the School has now been transformed following the work undertaken on 21st April by Chris Jones.

TRAINING DAY

A reminder that we have our final training day for this academic year taking place on Tuesday 3rd May, following the Bank Holiday Monday break. Pupils will return to School on Wednesday 4th May.

NEWS FROM OUR FAMILY WELFARE OFFICERS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - RED NOSE DAY 2016 is in May . We would like to form an event committee to organise and run a fund raising event on Thursday 26th May for parents, pupils and the community to enjoy.

We will be holding a coffee morning on Tuesday 10th May from 10.15 am -11.15 am for anybody who would like to be involved. Please come along and support this event.

If you would like to discuss this before the coffee morning please contact either myself or Bev.

Archery Opportunity for Parents

Mr Whittaker (Elmwood's Lead Teacher of Outdoor Education) is inviting parents to join him for an archery session on Friday 27th May 10 am - 11am.

This is an exciting opportunity to experience the benefits your child receives from taking part in this activity.

There are only 6 places available so you'll need to be quick.

And it will be under cover so rain can't stop play!

To book your place please call the school office. Report by Sonia Cook, Family Welfare Officer

STAFFING UPDATE

Unfortunately Ms Shaw has been unable to return after the Easter break and is now hopeful of returning in early May. We also had to say goodbye to Bal Shibber, supply teacher, on Friday 15th April following a new appointment however Sofia Johnson has joined the team and will be covering this post until Ms Shaw returns.

We warmly welcomed Mr Webb back to School on Monday 18th April. Pupils and staff were pleased to see Mr Webb who will initially be working part time.

Due to an increase in pupil numbers in September we are currently advertising for additional teachers and a teaching assistant to join the team. Once interviews have taken place we will update you with further details.

EASTER GOODIES

Students enjoyed taking part in Easter activities and competitions at the end of the Spring Term. School fund very kindly funded all students receiving an Easter egg which they received on the last day of term.

LAUNCH OF TOOTOOT

As part of our ongoing fight against bullying the School has joined up with Tootoot, an online safeguarding site which encourages pupils to report incidents of bullying. This new initiative will be officially launched on 3rd May with pupils finding out more in an assembly and parents and carers via a letter from the Headteacher. Hopefully with the other alternatives of completing internal blue bullying forms or the option of using the Sharp System, bullying can be tackled enabling all students to feel safe and secure in School.

FURTHER RECOGNITION FOR ELMWOOD SCHOOL

Further recognition to Elmwood School for working collaboratively to support other Senior and Middle Leaders and pupils with SEMH. This was part of a targeted approach to validate English and Maths work across KS3 and KS4 whilst providing high quality professional development regarding key issues that curriculum leads are facing in their respected schools. A massive thanks goes to Gemma Mayo (Curriculum Lead for Maths) and Chris Bowen (Curriculum Lead for English) whose input has greatly supported colleagues and pupils.

Extract from Ofsted's Monitoring Report for Mount Gilbert, Telford and Wrekin reads "Leaders took action to improve the accuracy of teachers' assessments and, as part of this process, now moderate pupils' work every half-term. Teachers' assessments are further checked externally through leaders from a nearby school." (Pg 8, April 2016). Report by Mr L Cross, Deputy Head



STUNNING ART WORK

A massive thank you to John Burton (Head of Art, Shelfield Academy) and Dawn Dunne (Exam's Officer, Shelfield Academy) for their on going support this year in supporting Ricardo Vidal to access a GCSE opportunity in Art and Design which will further strengthen his application to Coventry College. The pictures are from his final art piece (in progress) and the school are looking forward to the OCR Moderator attending Elmwood so we can show off Ricardo's fantastic talent. The school will also be keeping Ricardo's gallery open for the whole week of moderation (date to follow) to enable pupils and staff to be inspired by this talented young man, and possibly encourage the next generation!

"Thank you for having me present in your lessons and helping me out, and also providing Debbie with lots of tea, she was extremely grateful" - (Ricardo Vidal, Year 11 pupil)
Report by Mr Lee Cross, Deputy Head

Fishy business.

Most of our pupils really enjoy fishing and Mr Wood in Transition Base has been helping improve their experience. He has made contact with Dave Evans from the Angling Trust to support Elmwood.

We would like to give a special thanks to Mr Andrew McNicholas who has kindly donated a load of really good fishing gear for our school. In these hard times such generous offers really make a huge difference. Once again many thanks from us all. Report by Mr Hubbard, Headteacher

Visit by Daniel Caines

Daniel Caines (Sky Sports – Living for Sport) athletic mentor gave an additional visit to Elmwood School on 24.3.16 following his recent success as an inspirational speaker at the SEND Conference on 11.2.16. He delivered an interactive and inspirational workshop for all pupils across the morning reinforcing the "keys to success" and overcoming adversity to achieve your potential. Staff and pupils were extremely competitive throughout the workshop and judging by the smiles on the pupils' faces I would say that they got a lot from it. This is part of our work with Sky Sports and The Youth Sport Trust in raising aspirations and ambitions amongst our pupils – Daniel commented on the exceptional behaviour of the pupils (less so from the staff) and felt that his messages held real purpose with their journey at Elmwood.

Daniel also made Ricardo Vidal and Marcus Rose's day with the sheer sound of his Mercedes!!! A real inspirational moment for Ricardo and Marcus are going to achieve in the future through hard work and resilience.

This is the second year we have worked with Daniel and hope to continue our working relationship for many more years.
Report by Mr L Cross, Deputy Head