



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2017— NO. 118

www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk

PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT EVENT

Our autumn term Progress and Achievement event took place on Thursday 8th December 2016 when parents and carers were invited to attend to discuss their child's progress during the autumn term and look at future targets. The turnout overall was 64.15% with 100% of parents and carers in Year 7c attending which was very commendable. Feedback from parents and carers was mainly positive and any action points raised will be addressed by staff. In addition to meeting with staff (including catching up with new staff who joined the team in September) there was also the opportunity to talk to members of the Senior Leadership Team. A big thank you to everyone who supported the above. A reminder that our next Progress and Achievement event will take place on Thursday 6th April 2017 for parents and carers of students in Years 9, 10 and 11 only. Reports will be forwarded for all students updating parents and carers on their child's progress during the spring term.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH



On Thursday 15th December 2016 the whole School celebrated in a Christmas meal together. This was a real challenge this year due to the increase in pupil and staff numbers with seating needed for approximately 90 people. A big thank you to Anne Crosby, nurture teacher, who kindly organised for additional tables to be sourced and also arranged to collect and return them. As some of our young people would also find the prospect of a large gathering too much, a separate dining area was organised by Mr Cross for these students which was successful.

In addition Mr Cross also organised for two former students who have continued with catering courses at College to come along and support on the day. We warmly welcomed Connor Rose and Ethan Parker to the Elmwood community and they did a fantastic job supporting Lynne Rymer and Teresa Lalley, Cook and Assistant Cook.



The sports hall was transformed into a festive dining area and the tables looked a treat with name places, Christmas crackers and decorations in place—a big thank you to Ms Hilary Shaw, Food Technology Teacher for coordinating the above.

Finally the food was excellent with a delicious turkey dinner or vegetarian cottage pie on offer followed by Christmas pudding or festive chocolate ice cream and, if anyone had any room left, cheese and biscuits too! Billy, Ashley and Kacey in Year 7 presented gifts to Lynne the Cook, Teresa—Assistant Cook and Hilary Shaw, Food Technology Teacher, in recognition of all their hard work. Connor and Ethan were presented with £10 gift vouchers and selection boxes as way of a thank you too.



On returning to their bases, each child received a gift of a Christmas selection box paid for from our School Fund account, which had been placed under each class's Christmas tree. More pictures are available on our school website.

YEAR 7 TRIP TO THE CIRCUS



On Monday 17th January eleven pupils from Year 7 went to Darlaston Town Hall to watch a performance of 'Aladdin at the Circus'. Tickets were kindly provided by Circus Starr thanks to donations from local businesses. Pupils helped to prepare and cook a meal before heading off to enjoy the show



where they also enjoyed a goody bag of items. The above would not have been possible without the following staff members who gave up their free time for it to happen so a very big thank you to:

MRS DI CADMAN, MR PHIL DAMMS, MR MATT WEBB AND MS EMILY CARTER



Feedback from the pupils was of a brilliant night out though it was a little disappointing this year not to see Mr Damms and Mr Webb on the stage. As you can see they made themselves scarce when the opportunity arose!



More photographs are available on the School website.

SUPER WIGGLES FAMILY PROGRAMME

Walsall Council's Free School Meal Service has set up an exciting new club which runs for 6 weeks. It is aimed at families who have children aged 2-7 who are above a healthy weight. Venues are local and there are opportunities to try new foods, suggestions for healthy family meals, tips for shopping on a budget as well as a chance to learn and play fun games with your child. Ideas on how to manage bed routines, cleaning teeth and fussy eating are also available. Please call 01922 444044 or visit www.oneyouwalsall.com for further details.

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

The Government has launched [educate against hate](http://educateagainsthate.com), a website designed to equip Schools and parents with information, tools and resources needed to recognise and address extremism and radicalisation in young people. Further information can be obtained by visiting <http://educateagainsthate.com>

App warning— please be aware of an app called Yellow which is dubbed the 'Tinder for teens' and could be used by sexual predators to groom innocent young people. Yellow is available for both the iPhone and Android devices and bills itself as a free way to make new chat friends. There are no checks in place that verifies the age of its users.

CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate our Year 11 cohort on their recent examinations success which has been confirmed following the December series of assessments. All students have now successfully completed their target grade assessments in both Maths and English and will be able to present these qualifications during their College applications. These excellent results are a testament to staff and students' hard work and determination of which, as ever, we are immensely proud (report by Ms Mayo, Maths Teacher).

We are also pleased to announce the engagement of Ms Gemma Mayo, Maths Teacher to Mr James Frances, DT Teacher which took place over the Christmas break. Plans are now underway for a wedding early in 2018 and we send them both our sincere congratulations, they make such a lovely couple and both staff and pupils were thrilled to hear the news.

ELMWOOD GETS GOLD!!



Elmwood School has been awarded a gold award by the Woodland Trust for getting involved in green activities including tree planting, visiting a local woodland, reducing carbon emissions and recycling.

Pupils have been very busy during out and about lessons with Mr Whittaker and Mr Holmes planting trees around the School grounds which have all helped to enhance our local community.

We will be receiving a further 30 free trees from the Trust in March 2017 and look forward to adding them to our open space areas.

Our gold award plaque is now proudly on display in reception and the logo has been added to our stationery. A big thank you to Mr Whittaker for all his work in achieving this accolade.

VACINATIONS FOR PUPILS IN YEAR 9 AND 10

During this School year children in Years 9 and 10 will have the opportunity to receive Meningitis together with Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio vaccinations. Letters together with consent form and frequently asked questions have been sent to all relevant parents and carers which needs to be returned within one week so that the above can be organised asap.



FUN IN THE SNOW

Pupils and staff took advantage of the first fall of snow on Friday 6th January with the option of an early morning snow ball fight. Anyone who wished to brave the

elements and take part did so on the strict proviso that all snow remained outdoors! Di Cadman safely captured the scene from indoors of everyone having fun.

In the event of School having to close due to adverse weather please check our School website for details. A text message will also be sent to parents and carers informing them as soon as possible of any closure.



FAMILY ART PROJECT DAY FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY 2017

Parents and carers were invited to come along and join in with a Cuban themed art project with their child on Friday 20th January. A big thank you to the families of Liam Cheetham, and Joseph Dunn who took part with Mr Collins, Art Teacher.



MARVELLOUSME UPDATE

It is good to see that more and more parents and carers are celebrating their child's success via the MarvellousMe app. We now have over 59% of parents and carers engaging which is pleasing to see. Well done to 7c who currently are the winning group for the most messages sent closely followed by 11a. If any parent or carer needs a reminder of their log in details, please contact Dawn in the School Office who will organise this.