



# ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## MARCH 2017 – NO. 120

[www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk](http://www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk)

### MATCH REPORT

Elmwood School football team played at home on Friday 10th February. The away team (Arc) opened the scoring but Fahed Matter in Year 10 soon equalised with an excellent strike.

The away team then put two goals past Elmwood's goal keeper, Simon Farrington. Fahed managed to pull a good goal back making the score 3-2. The visitors then scored another goal in the last minute of the game.

Match report by Bradley Sladyszyn, Year 10b

### MISP SESSIONS



As you are aware Kerry Bowen and Charlotte Clarke are trained to deliver MISP (Massage in School Programme).

Pupils have been taking part in a six week programme and have now qualified to deliver MISP themselves. Please encourage your child to continue with this at home; some have already been practicing on staff. Well done to all concerned.



### BIRD WATCHING

Students have been enjoying the art of bird watching during out and about lessons with Mr Holmes and Mr Whittaker. Recently they visited Sandwell Valley where they

laid out seed for the flat-feeding birds and used binoculars to watch those birds that prefer to eat from the hanging feeders already put out by the park staff. Bird types and numbers were recorded on the RSPB 'Big Bird Watch' sheets and included blue tits, coal, great and long-tail tits, blackbirds, nuthatches, wrens, sparrows and pigeons.

Some groups also did the heron walk around a lake where we counted at least 14 herons on the island in the centre.

The rarest birds seen in the woods were four bright yellow/green paraquets which live there after being released a few years ago!

Report by Mr Ashley Holmes, Skills Development Co-ordinator

### FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Due to rising postal charges, from April 2017 all future newsletters will no longer be posted to parents and carers but given to pupils to take home. Copies of newsletters can always be viewed on our School Website.

## STAFFING NEWS

We are pleased to announce that Bev Bailey, Family Welfare Officer, joined the Senior Leadership Team with effect from 27th February 2017. Bev will be a great asset to the team and we wish her every success in her new role.

We said goodbye to Kay Ruby-Wilson, teaching assistant in nurture, on 24th March. Kay joined the School in October 2016 and has forged good relationships with both pupils and staff during this time. Pupils in Year 7b presented Kay with their hand made good luck poster during Friday assembly.



Following interviews on Monday 13th April we are pleased to confirm that Mark Trehearn will be joining the team as a Teaching Assistant in Nurture and we look forward to welcoming him to Elmwood hopefully after the Easter break.

Ms Mayo celebrated a special birthday on 23rd March and was presented with an array of cards and gifts from staff. Many happy returns to Ms Mayo.



## TOP MARKS FOR ATTENDANCE

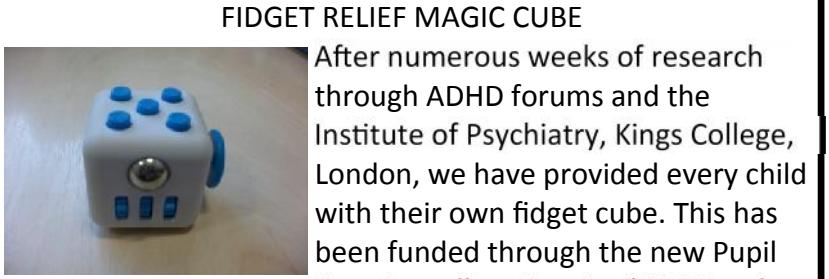
Well done to the following students who have achieved 100% attendance for the first half of the Spring term—a brilliant achievement.

Aisha Ahmed, Jamie Ashford, Thomas Carter, Liam Cheetham, Liam Clarke, Ashley Clewley, Sophie Clewley, Alice Dewsbury, Joseph Dunn, Callum Groom, Isaiah Jagirdar, Ciaran Lawrence, Rico Maritza-Yates, Fahed Matter, Nathan Naylor, Cythian Ogunbodede, Tyrone Peakman, Kacey Sawyers, Shani Scott and Jordan Williams.



## SUPPORT FROM LOCAL MP

Mr Cross recently wrote to the Local Authority expressing his concern (and that of parents/carers) with regards to the finalisation of EHCP's for our Year 11 students. With the deadline of 31st March 2017 fast approaching for Post 16 placements being named in any EHCP's, Wendy Morton MP, was made aware of the situation. A letter from the House of Commons has been sent to Mr Cross advising that Mrs Morton has contacted the SEND Team at Walsall Council on our behalf.



## FIDGET RELIEF MAGIC CUBE

After numerous weeks of research through ADHD forums and the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College, London, we have provided every child with their own fidget cube. This has been funded through the new Pupil Premium allocation April 2017 and, matched funded through school funds, for those not in receipt of this additional funding enabling every child to benefit from these cubes. The aim is to improve attention, fine motor skills (timing) and decision making skills. These cubes are to remain at school to support pupils within the structure of the day. I will present impact at the end of the financial year as part of the Pupil Premium Effectiveness Document for 2017. Report by Mr Lee Cross, Deputy Head

## END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

A reminder that pupils break up for the Easter holidays on Friday 7th April at 12.30 pm and return on Monday 24th April.

## CHARITY FUNDRAISING

WOOLLY HAT DAY—27th January 2017. As you will recall we helped to support this event recently raising £93. St Mungo's, the organisers, have since written to say that a total of £25,000 was raised this year so a big thank you to everyone who made this possible.

RED NOSE DAY—24th March 2017. Staff and pupils took part in raising money for comic relief by wearing red, buying cakes and in a sweepstake competition. A total of £102.30 was raised. Well done to Lynn Maritza, School Business Manager, who won £24 in the sweepstake.



WEAR A HAT DAY—31st March 2017. We are hosting another non uniform/wear a hat day to raise money for brain tumour research. A donation of £1 towards this Charity is requested.

### COFFEE MORNING

Karen Wright from transport joined a few parents at the coffee morning Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March to discuss Personal Transport Budgets. Parents

found it to be very informative. If you have any questions for Karen, please contact her on 01922 652663.

You can also speak with Bev who will be happy to answer any questions.



Report by Bev Bailey, Family Welfare Officer



### ELMWOOD DEFINITELY HAS TALENT

There is definitely no end to the talent of some of our young people as



recently witnessed by Di Cadman. She was full of praise when she saw Bradley R, Jordan W and Shani in Year 11 creating pieces of work by either crocheting or knitting. From the pictures she took this is clear to see and what an achievement. Well done to all and the orders will soon be flying in!

### E SAFETY LOCAL AUTHORITY COMPETITION

We were thrilled to learn that we were the runners up in the Local Authority Internet Safety Day competition.

Nicola Rudge, Local Authority E Safety Advisor, stated that



our video was of excellent quality and very innovative!

Our prize of a Wordwall tablet (similar to an Ipad), was presented in a whole school assembly on Friday 17th March.

Well done to Leonie Stokes, Teaching Assistant, who was behind the video together with Mr Webb, Drama Teacher.

### THANK YOU

A big thank you to all parents and carers who contributed £5 towards the recent cinema visit for pupils in Years 7 and 8. The viewing of 'Lego the Batman Movie' was a great success and your support in helping to make this happen is much appreciated.

## WORLD BOOK DAY 2.3.17

On World Book Day, Thursday 2 March 2017, Wally-watchers celebrated 30 years of 'Where's Wally?' with a hunt to find Wally during reading time at Elmwood School and around the country! Where's Wally? celebrates its 30th anniversary this year and is also part of the World Book Day line-up of titles available for £1. Pupils also received a book token for £1 that they can redeem in local book shops. In addition 40 new books were donated to the school by the Book Trust. This not only improves school reading resources but also encourages pupils to try different types of books they might not usually consider reading. Report by Mr C Bowen, English Teacher

## TCAE Parent events Friday 28th April 1.00 pm and 5.00 pm\*

I would like to invite you to a thought provoking presentation around Toxic Childhood and Elmwood School. I would hope that the findings of a recent student survey and some practical tips on how to tackle some of the issues raised would be of interest to all parents. I am happy to be challenged on my findings but all I ask is an open mind and a willingness to reflect honestly on how things are outside of school for your child. I would hope you can go away with a personal action plan which may make your life with your child more enjoyable and help us work with you to achieve even more positive outcomes for their future.

Please let Dawn Canham know in the office when and if you can attend and we will set up refreshments to suit.

\* Subject to demand.

Report by Simon Hubbard, Headteacher



### GOOD WAY TO START THE DAY

Elmwood pupils always start the day with a chosen activity such as gardening, keep fit, table

tennis, yoga, and outdoor sports. As you can see from the pictures the keep fit class organised by Emily Carter, Teaching Assistant, is very popular with both pupils and staff.



## GOVERNOR VACANCY

A parent governor vacancy arose following the term of office coming to an end for Mrs Jenkins.

Following a parental election, Mrs Suzanne Hill, mom to Tom in Year 10, was elected and we will be welcoming Mrs Hill to her first meeting on 29th March. Our other parent governors are Mrs Cheetham and Mr Breakspear, who can both be contacted via the Clerk to the Governors, Mrs Dawn Canham, based in the School Office.



### NEWS FROM FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Pupils have been



busy celebrating St David's Day by cooking Welsh faggots. For St Patrick's Day Years 7 & 8 cooked colcannon, and Year 9 made Dublin coddle. In cooking club, Kerry apple cake was on the menu.



Caribbean jerk chicken, roasted vegetables and rice and beans were produced by Years 10 and 11 for the 'Around the World' cooking project.

Years 7 and 8 have been working hard towards Sainsbury's Active Kids Get Cooking Award, One and Two Star Chef Awards.

Year 10 students are working towards Level 1 BTEC and Year 11 are completing Level 2 assessments.

Years 7 and 8 pupils have also been busy making Comic Relief biscuits and cakes to sell on the day, which raised a total of £24.09.

Year 9 pupils have completed more dishes from 'Around the World' including Welsh faggots, Caribbean chicken, rice and peas.



Report by Ms H Shaw, Food Technology Teacher