



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER MARCH 2018 – NO. 131

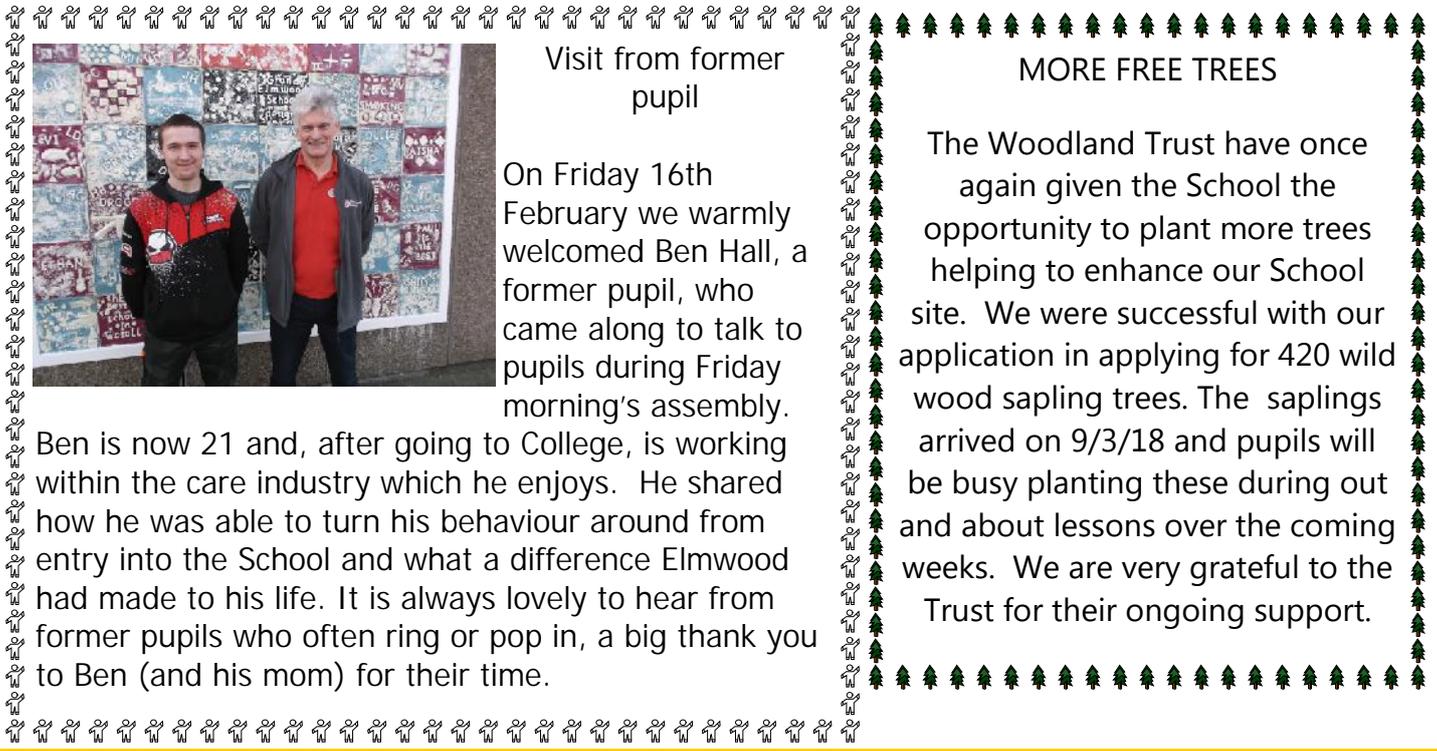
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FISHING PROJECT



On Friday 16th February I organised for the Fisheries Trust to deliver a 'get into angling' session sponsored by Sportivate for seven of our pupils. The day was very cold but our pupils showed patience and resilience. We started on one pool but there was still ice on the surface, following some very cold weather, so we decided to move to another pool in the afternoon where most of the pupils caught fish. The

children all stated how much they enjoyed the event, despite the cold conditions. As a result of completing this event we have gained funds to further equip the fishing tackle for our School giving us a new dimension to some of the sessions that we put on. This would not have been possible if it were not for the support from the Fisheries Trust and Sportivate England so many thanks from every one at Elmwood. Report by Mr S Wood, Nurture Teacher



Visit from former pupil



On Friday 16th February we warmly welcomed Ben Hall, a former pupil, who came along to talk to pupils during Friday morning's assembly.

Ben is now 21 and, after going to College, is working within the care industry which he enjoys. He shared how he was able to turn his behaviour around from entry into the School and what a difference Elmwood had made to his life. It is always lovely to hear from former pupils who often ring or pop in, a big thank you to Ben (and his mom) for their time.

MORE FREE TREES

The Woodland Trust have once again given the School the opportunity to plant more trees helping to enhance our School site. We were successful with our application in applying for 420 wild wood sapling trees. The saplings arrived on 9/3/18 and pupils will be busy planting these during out and about lessons over the coming weeks. We are very grateful to the Trust for their ongoing support.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On 8th March 2018 we celebrated International Women's Day. Elmwood School only has a few girls however we felt it was still important to celebrate this event during Friday's assembly. Pupils looked at inspirational stories and the reasoning behind International Women's Day. Each girl received a book celebrating the achievements of women and each book was aligned to their specific interest or age. Courtney Allport, Kacey Sawyers, Tia Phillips and Alice Dewsbury received 'Great women who changed the World', Sophie Clewley received 'Great women in science' and Aisha Ahmed 'Women who changed history'. Kacey spent the next break time tracing pictures from her book. A special recognition for Tia who could not have been more grateful about receiving such a small gift. Kacey thanked me personally and spent the rest of the afternoon with her book in hand.

Please can I also give recognition to our female parents and carers.

Report by Beverley Bailey, Family Welfare Officer

STAFFING NEWS

We were pleased to see Grant Hunt, Teaching Assistant in Year 9, return to school on a phased return on Tuesday 27th February following his illness and operation. A warm welcome back Grant from everyone and we are pleased to report that after Easter Grant will return full time.

KIND DONATION

Alan Willetts who was previously Chair of Governors at Daw End School kindly contacted the School on 8th March offering to donate four Promethean interactive whiteboards and projectors that were no longer needed at Whitehall Junior School. We obviously said YES PLEASE and therefore on Monday 12th March they were collected by the Head and Caretaker. We are very grateful to Whitehall Junior School for this fantastic donation which will be well utilised around the School.

MarvellousMe Parent Guide

MarvellousMe have produced a new reference guide for parents which answers common questions like joining up, logging back in and seeing their child's history. A copy of the guide is available on the parents/carers page of the School website. Currently 70% of parents/carers have signed up and use the system and we would encourage any parents and carers who have not yet done so to take a look (either via a mobile phone or computer). Please call Dawn in the Office if you need any help or further information.

'TALKING RUBBISH'



Classes have recently been helping to 'Keep Walsall tidy'. We have met with Mark Hickman, Community Liaison Officer from the Council at a variety of parks and nature reserves. We have held litter collecting competitions which Mark has judged and we have been awarded a prize. Mark has disposed of the litter on our behalf.



As a result of this the School has benefitted already from being given permission from the Ranger to harvest fresh spars of wood from the Airfield for pupils to whittle to make their own walking stick. A further benefit has included an opportunity for a select group to visit the Mayor's parlour. Mark has also offered to meet us at outdoor gyms in local parks and train pupils on how to use the equipment there. He has also offered a sports programme based in the parks as well as the potential to visit Mark's community allotment along with other opportunities.



Pupils have been focussing upon the virtue of 'altruism' during this work having provided a service to others. Passing members of the local community have been very impressed by our pupils efforts. However, as Elmwood also uses many of these sites, we will all benefit from this work.

Report by Mr D Whittaker, Lead Teacher Outdoor Learning

DENTAL UNIT VISIT

On Tuesday 27th February 2017 the mobile dental unit visited School and caught up with eleven students. Some students raised sensitivity around the taste of toothpaste during the visit. As a result the Dentist recommended using OraNurse unflavoured toothpaste specially formulated for people sensitive to strong flavours. It has the daily recommended fluoride and is SLS free.

OraNurse unflavoured toothpaste was initially developed in a response to the need of autistic children who have a problem with taste, even to the extent of not liking the taste of water. This has resulted in the development of a toothpaste with no flavour or sodium lauryl sulphate (foaming agent) but still with the protection of 1000ppm fluoride for children aged 0-3 years and 1450ppm fluoride for children aged 4 years plus and the original adult formula.

Other possible indications for the need of an unflavoured toothpaste include; people who simply don't like the taste of mint or adults and children with learning disabilities where they perceive mint to have a 'hot' or 'burning' sensation.

BUSY TIMES IN FOOD TECHNOLOGY

To continue to promote British Values within our School Tuesday 13th February was Shrove Tuesday aka pancake day. Pupils were introduced to the skill of pancake art. Getting the right consistency proved to be quite hard for the batter to be piped through discarded sauce bottles, but after adapting the recipe by mid week we had some success.



Meanwhile Year 7 had their own 'Great British Elmwood Bake Off' having loads of fun making a cake which they went on to decorate with different types of icing and other edible materials, but we did have a first when Oliver Fletcher made one for his pet dog complete with gravy bones hope he enjoyed it Olly. Pupils were given the option of making cakes for Valentines Day or just for someone they cared for. Lynn Maritza, Dawn Canham, Mr Webb and James Hawkins were asked

to judge the cakes looking at both the appearance and skill level needed to decorate it. Theo Forrester was the proud winner having used the feather effect on the icing for his design. Well done Theo.

From the 27/2/18 we had a week of celebrating St David's day, patron Saint of Wales introducing Year 7's to the delights of welsh cakes and Year 8's made a delicious leek and potato soup....just what was needed during the very cold weather we experienced.

BTEC news—Year 11's are busy deciding and planning the dishes they want to cook for their final assessment. A polite reminder to Year 10's that photographic evidence of cooking a two course meal at home needs to be handed or emailed into school by



April to hshaw@elmwood.walsall.sch.uk

Report by Ms Shaw, Food Technology Teacher

CARPETS DIRECT THANK YOU

Elmwood would like to thank Carpets Direct of Norton Canes for their kind donation of cardboard carpet roll inner tubes. These are being utilised to store fishing rods and walking sticks for the pupils. Report by Mr D Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning

GOVERNOR NEWS

Having served as a governor from when Elmwood School opened in 2008, Chrissie Grainger, Co-opted Governor, has sadly decided to step down. Chrissie has been an integral part of the School and Governing Body and has forged excellent relationships with both staff and governors. For many years she served as Chair of Governors as well as Safeguarding Governor but unfortunately, for personal reasons, feels unable to give the position the dedication needed. Chrissie's input and support will be missed but we wish her every happiness for the future. The Governing Body will endeavour to seek a new Co-opted Governor who can offer the School the expertise and experience needed for the role. We will keep you posted. As a sign of our appreciation for the years that Chrissie has given to the School flowers and thank you cards were sent with our thanks and best wishes. A big thank you to Sallyann Tuckwell-Allen who has agreed to act as interim Safeguarding Governor.

Visit to Walsall Mayor's parlour



As an outcome from Elmwood pupils collecting litter with our Community Liaison Officer, Mark Hickman, some pupils were offered the opportunity to visit the Town Hall and meet Mayor, Marco Longhi. Pupils were given a guided tour of the building from Mark, initially studying the outside of the building with its bell tower (housing peregrine falcons), as well as the town's impressive coat of arms proudly displayed above the doorway (which was purchased off Warwickshire hence the symbol of the bear!). We were also told where there is a time capsule hidden in the building. The building dates from 1902 and the estimated cost to re build the Council House would be in excess of 8 million pounds today.

We next saw the splendour of the interior with pupils able to appreciate the craftsmanship of the mosaic floor and stained glass, thanks to experiencing these skills with Mr. Francis in DT lessons. We were taken aback by the grandeur of the main hall with its vast size, memorials and imposing organ. Our pupils next entered the Council chamber where the Mayor presides over proceedings as a representative of the Queen. It was explained how many decisions are debated and voted upon here, decisions which affect everyone's everyday life, from road repairs, to street lighting, balancing the budget, financing leisure centres and even the cost of council tax to individuals. Pupils could see how this was similar to Parliament that they see on the news.

As we entered the Mayor's parlour, ornate, yet robust iron gates were unlocked. The purpose of which soon clearly became obvious as we viewed the various historic treasures inside. The Mayor showed us his ceremonial chain and gowns and the Lady Mayoress's chain of office and explained their tremendous value.

After a chat with the Mayor Marco, with questions coming from the students, we were treated to a drink and biscuit, given a copy of a guide to the history of the Hall and each pupil was given a gift of a plush pencil case and stationery set from the Mayor.

All thanked Mark and the Mayor for their invite and time and agreed they had learnt a great deal and before today had no idea such a grand building existed in Walsall, thanks to the wealth originally created from Walsall's leather businesses and industrial heritage.



Thanks also goes to Elmwood pupils, whose behaviour was impeccable, and to Charlotte Clarke, who now has plans to become Mayoress herself just so she can wear that red gown and very expensive 'bling'!

Report by Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning



MY SPECIAL DAY AT CRUFTS

On Thursday 8th March I went to Crufts to watch the working group being judged. I like this group because Great Danes are in it.

I was really excited and proud because I got to watch my breeder Annette Harrison, show Misty, she's a sister (from a different litter) to my puppies. When they were in the ring they had to all line up and then the judge Gary Hooker asks each one forward. You have to get your dog to do a good stand while the judge checks your dog. Then you have to get your dog to trot around the ring. To show at Crufts you have to have a really good dog because you have to get 1st, 2nd or 3rd in a championship competition. After watching the classes, the best of breed went to a black Great Dane, it was unusual as fawns are usual winners. I asked my breeder Annette, what her favourite part was, she said, 'Taking part on the green carpet, as it's a great achievement. I also enjoy meeting Cruft visitors, making new friends and talking about Great Danes'. My favourite part was meeting Annette and Misty ringside and giving Misty a stroke.

Later on we walked around the shops at Crufts, there were so many! I found a Nerf shop that sold a ball blasting gun for dogs to fetch, but my dogs are too big for that toy, even though they're puppies. We bought them a rope bomb each from NERF instead and an Arden grange blanket. I think I would like to have a shop that makes toys for big dogs. I found a business where you can learn dog walking qualifications, so I took some books from them to read at home. I didn't know you could get dog walking qualification. I also found a bronze statue of a Great Dane called smokey, who weighed 130lbs. My puppies weigh 133lbs for Shadow and 128lbs for Halo.



I learned some fun facts; the last Great Dane to win Best in Show at Crufts was in 1953 by a Great Dane known as Elch Elder of Ouborough. Another fact is this year there were 140 Great Danes that qualified for Crufts! I loved going to Crufts, I hope I get to show Halo with the Youth Kennel Club at Crufts 2019, that would be amazing. Report by Callum, Year 7 pupil

STEM EVENT



On Wednesday 7th March all students of Elmwood School celebrated World Maths Day by participating in our Marble Roller Coaster Challenge. Each class were given the STEM challenge of creating the greatest roller coaster possible. Bonus points were awarded for the most cost effective creation, the longest ride, and the most aesthetically pleasing

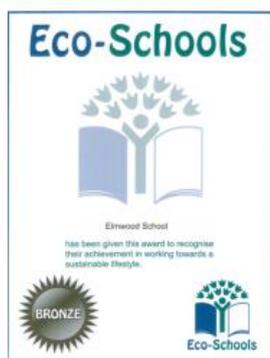


design. Despite all groups being given the same brief, classes put an individual spin on their designs and the final pieces were certainly something to be proud of. Inventive ideas stretched from long, fast and furious rides to water flumes, loop the loops, and space themed or fast food carriage designs. Mrs Whittlestone, Science Teacher, had the privileged job of looking at all the final products whilst Mr Francis was on hand to provide students with materials, intuition and some mighty marble power straight from Design and Technology. The project gave the three departments chance to work together and provide the students with a fun filled morning whilst incorporating a variety skills including team work, co-operation, leadership, communication as well as creativity and engineering. A massive well done goes to all students and especially to 10a who were crowned overall winners of the day. Report by Mrs Francis, Maths Teacher



The winning team.

Eco School Award



Elmwood have started their journey to becoming a more Eco Friendly School and have achieved the Bronze Award from Eco Schools. We have achieved this by completing an eco-review of the school to look at areas where we can improve our environmental awareness. The School Council then came up with a plan of action that would improve the School environment and at the same time create financial savings for the school. We will keep you posted on our Eco Friendly journey.

Special thanks to Connor Berry in Year 7 for helping me complete the environment review. Report by James Hawkins, Family Welfare Officer

BTEC DRAMA THEATRE VISIT

Together with Callum W, Jamie LC and Jamie A we went to see 'Teechers' on Thursday 15th March at Lichfield Garrick Theatre as part of our BTEC drama course which we will be studying next term. We went to see the show after school hours with Mr Webb, Kerry and Di.

'Teechers' is about three actors who play multiple roles, for example they played a number of teachers, pupils and the Caretaker of Whitehall School.

It was unbelievable because it was very realistic and it was really funny as the actors used different accents and characteristics. They only had three tables and three chairs on the stage and they used them for all kinds of different purposes and props. We would recommend this show to anybody as it is very comical and also had some serious points. Report by Tyrone and Nathan—
Year 10 pupils

Year 10 residential trips

Pupils in year 10 have been offered the opportunity of an overnight residential visit as part of their outdoor learning lessons. Due to pupil numbers two trips have been organised for 28-29 March 2018 and 21-22 June 2018 when they will be heading off to stay in bunkhouse style accommodation at Womerton Farm, Long Mynd, Shropshire. Whilst there pupils will cook for each other, supervised by staff and enjoy lots of outdoor based activities. Feedback from previous years has been excellent with a great time had by all. Fingers crossed for good weather and a follow up will be included in the April edition of the newsletter.

NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE

Tyler Martin from the National Citizen Service came to visit our Year 11 pupils on Friday 16th March. NCS provide a four week programme during the summer holidays. Pupils have the opportunity to experience a residential for 1 week, stay in university accommodation for the 2nd week, take part in a community based activity in week 3 and to showcase in week 4. NCS is recognised by employers and universities. Taking part raises confidence and self-esteem and allows pupils to experience life away from home with support. NCS attended our Progress and Achievement event on the 22nd March for Years 9/10/11 when parents/carers had the opportunity to find out more about the scheme.

If you would like to speak further to Tyler his contact details are below. Pupils have taken their application forms home but more are available if needed. The 4 weeks will cost just £20. An exciting opportunity not to be missed. You can always speak with myself too (Bev).

Tyler Lee Martin, Outreach Associate NCS with The Challenge Birmingham and The Black Country,
tyler.lee-martin@the-challenge.org, or call 07867643798.

Report by Bev Bailey, Family Welfare Officer