



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2019 – NO. 140

www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk

CHRISTMAS MEAL



On Wednesday 19th December 2018 the whole school enjoyed a communal Christmas lunch. Thanks to Lynne Rymer, School Cook, with help from two Walsall Catering Department assistants, a traditional Christmas turkey meal or vegetarian option followed by a choice of Christmas pudding, mince pie, fruit, ice cream or cheese and biscuits was served. The room looked amazing thanks to Shelli George, supply teaching assistant, who decked out all the chairs with covers and bows and to Ms Shaw who helped to decorate the



tables. Mr Cross made sure that pupils who prefer a quieter environment had an equally good time in a separate side room. At the end of the meal Lynne was presented with a thank you gift from staff in appreciation of the occasion. Very well done to all pupils whose behaviour was impeccable and made the day amazing. More photographs are available on our school website, photo gallery page.



SPECIAL AWARDS/PRIZES



Also recognised at the end of the above meal were our register monitors in Year 11, Habib and Nathan. Between them they do an excellent job of delivering and returning the afternoon registers around school and both received a £5 gift voucher each in recognition of this.

The prize draw also took place for the Key Stage 3 and 4 reading raffle. The lucky winners were Ricky in Year 7 and Dion in Year 11 who both received a £10 Amazon gift voucher. Very well done to both and keep on reading as who knows who will be the lucky winner at the end of the Spring Term.



SUPPORTING THE HOMELESS ANGELS



Once again we have helped support the Homeless Angels, a voluntary group who offer support to vulnerable homeless people in the Walsall and Cannock area. We were able to raise £44.40 as a result of the monies received from wearing Christmas jumpers and donations from staff for Christmas cards. Dawn in the Office, with help from sister Denise, hit the Christmas sales and was able to purchase bargain food and clothing items that were needed to support this good cause. Check out the Homeless Angels Facebook page for details of the School's donation and for further information on the good work that they do. If anyone has any holdalls, rucksacks etc that they no longer need, these would be gratefully received by the Homeless Angels and can be passed on by Dawn in the Office.

STAFFING NEWS

Mr Hubbard and Mr Donaldson continue to be absent from School and we send them our very best wishes.

Julie Powers, teaching assistant in Year 9, celebrated a very special birthday over the Christmas break. Julie received a small token gift from staff in recognition of this milestone day, together with a cash sum which we know Julie wanted to give to a local charity. What a lovely gesture from Julie.

Di Cadman, teaching assistant in Year 11, is currently off work following a recent operation. Di will be missing for a few weeks and we send her our love and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

We were pleased to see Marcia Allen, teaching assistant, back following her recent absence at the start of term. Unfortunately Jenna Wilkins, teaching assistant in nurture is now absent due to ill health and we send her our best wishes.

Anne Crosby, Year 9I form tutor, is no longer employed at the School and we have warmly welcomed Matthew Penrice on long term supply to cover this post. Matthew is settling in very well in his new role.

LOCAL ENERGY ADVICE PARTNERSHIP

The Free School Meals Service is promoting LEAP who are a free energy and money saving service for eligible families. It offers local residents a completely free of charge service to help save money and keep your home warm and cosy.

Call 0800 060 7567 (Freephone) to book or apply online at www.applyforleap.org.uk.

Opportunity for parents and carers to meet with Councillor Perry

Your chance to get involved!

Do you live, work or play in the following areas?

- Aldridge
- Brownhills
- Clayhanger
- Pelsall
- Pheasey
- Rushall
- Shelfield
- Streetly
- Walsall Wood

The East Locality, chaired by Cllr Garry Perry, would like to invite you, as a representative of your community group, to a community conversation on Monday, 1st February, 2019, to be held at Manor Farm Community Association, King George Crescent, Rushall, WS4 1EU, commencing at 6pm.

The session will focus on community conversations around issues that are important to you. We will be talking about:-

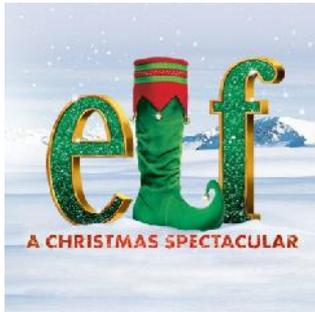
1. The environment – green spaces and your neighbourhood
2. Improving community connections to reduce loneliness and social isolation
3. Keeping safe in your local area – reducing crime and anti-social behaviour (and the fear of crime)

You will have your chance to discuss any concerns you may have within your community and be part of a solution-focused approach to improve your area.

AUTUMN TERM ATTENDANCE

Many congratulations and very well done to the following pupils who all managed to achieve 100% attendance for the whole of the autumn term. All pupils were presented with a £5 gift voucher in recognition of this achievement:

Archie Kavanagh, Ciaran Lawrence, Ricky Lewis, Harry Moore, Mark Reddington, Nathan Walton and Callum Wilkinson.



ELF PANTOMIME VISIT

On Thursday 20th December 2018 Pathways students and staff went to enjoy the Christmas spectacular performance of The Elf at Birmingham's Resorts World Arena. This year's show included performances from Love Actually star and singer Martine McCutcheon and a somewhat ageing, but well known singer, David Essex. Star of the show had to be Buddy the elf played by comedy actor Tam Ryan, whose credits include Emmerdale, Coronation Street and Waterloo Road.

Despite an unforeseen delayed start our key stage 4 students were impeccably behaved as they waited for the fun to begin. There were lovely displays of special-effects, talented skaters and dancers that kept us entertained....and not forgetting the mesmerising tightrope walkers and trapeze artists. All in all a great day was had and it was wonderful to be able to share such great memories with our young people. A big thank you also to the Rotary Club for their support in providing the tickets and also the parents/carers who sent in donations, which was very much appreciated.

Report by Mrs G Francis, Lead Teacher for Maths

CALLUM DID IT!

Very well done to Callum in Year 11 who achieved his goal on Monday 7th January of cycling 75 miles (the equivalent of cycling to Manchester) to help raise money for Embrace, victims of crime.

Callum has been peddling away during morning activities, free time and Asdan wider key skills lessons and as a result helped to raise £125 for this good cause.

On completing the ride Callum stated that he found it easier than he thought because he paced himself and wished to say thank you to all those who sponsored him.

Well done Callum, we are very proud of what you have achieved.

SCITT SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Week commencing 21st January, 36 SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) students spent a day at Elmwood. Students were assigned to a teaching group where they were able to experience a wide range of subjects as well as social times with pupils. Feedback from those who attended was extremely positive with one student expressing a future interest in working at the School.

MOBILE NUMBER REMINDER

In the event that School has to close due to bad weather or for health and safety reasons, it is important that we have up to date mobile phone numbers for you. Please let the office know if you have recently changed your number so that if we need to send a text message to you, this will be received. Many thanks.

KIND GESTURES

What thoughtful pupils we have.

Following a visit to the German Market, Nathan in Year 8, kindly gave a homeless person some of his money. This was no doubt gratefully received and such a kind act.



Also well done to Tia in Year 10 who made a stunning Christmas gift for Jade Lunt her TA during DT lessons. The lolly bucket was also equipped with lights and was a lovely surprise for Jade.

WALSALL'S BIG COMMUNITY ENERGY SWITCH

Local residents once again have the opportunity to take part in Walsall's Big Community Energy Switch. Registration is available to all householders whether you own, rent or have a pre payment meter. The deadline to register is 12th February 2019 and the auction will be held on the same date. Residents can register at www.walsall.gov.uk/bigswitch or by calling 0800 088 5007 Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5.30 pm.

REWARD TRIP



Pupils who had achieved gold, silver or bronze status for the Autumn Term were rewarded on Friday 11th January when they set off on their relevant trips. Gold students enjoyed a 20 lap session and time in the laser arena at Cannon Raceway, Silver students enjoyed a session at Clip and Climb near Stoke and Bronze students went bowling in Tamworth. Feedback from everyone was of a fantastic time and a big thank you to the staff who led and supported the events. Also a big thank you to Lynn Maritza, School Business Manager, who (with help from Ms Lloyd, Acting Deputy Head) organised the bookings.



UNIFORM REMINDER

Recently a number of pupils have mislaid items of uniform around School. Can we please advise parents/carers to mark their child's name within their clothing as it is difficult otherwise making sure the right clothes are returned to the right people. Your support would be appreciated.

COFFEE MORNING

A reminder that the next coffee morning is taking place on February 6th at 9.30 am when the School Nurse will also be in attendance. Please try and come along and join Bev and James, Family Welfare Officers for a catch up.

SUPPORT FROM THE BEACON

Caroline and Jackie from The Beacon have been kind enough to join our 9m class to complete work around risky behaviours and the affects of substance misuse on the adolescent brain which forms part of the curriculum development around Stop Think Do. This has been a huge step forward for The Beacon as they would usually engage 1-1. Having visitors in the class has also allowed the class to cope with new faces. Caroline stated that she has thoroughly enjoyed working with the class and it's been a learning curve for her. She's particularly impressed with Alice who would not stay in the room when Caroline and Jackie first attended, now Alice confidently communicates with them both. On behalf of 9m I would like to thank Craig, Caroline and Jackie for pushing the norms and listening to our need. Report by Mrs B Beverley, Family Welfare Coordinator

CIRCUS PERFORMANCE

Thanks to Circus Starr, some pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 enjoyed an evening performance of 'The Greatest Snowman' at Darlaston Town Hall on Monday 14th January.

Staff, namely Mr Damms, Mr Francis, Mrs Powers and Mrs Bowen, kindly gave their time after school so that pupils could attend the show having first enjoyed a meal that pupils had helped to prepare and cook themselves.

A very big thank you to the local companies who pay for these tickets and to Circus Starr for their continued support which is much appreciated. Pupils kindly wrote letters of thanks to Circus Starr which they will be able to share with the

companies concerned; copies of which are on our website, Our Supporters, page.



YEAR 8 VISIT WHITTINGTON BARRACKS
All pupils in Year 8 had the opportunity to visit Whittington Barracks where they had hands on experience of life in the trenches. This is what Connor in 8c had to say 'Last Friday we went to Whittington Barracks and we saw tanks, gun and bombs. We got to try on soldier's clothes and hats. We went to the trenches and we heard gun shots

and me plus Mark was pretending to have guns shooting at people. I felt sad when people in the army had to eat rubbish food. When we was in the trenches it was dark, cold, spooky and Mr Webb couldn't see so he had to put his flash light on.

We had good pictures of everybody'. Mark in Year 8c wrote the following '8c went to Whittington Barracks and we saw tanks. We walked into a trench to see what it was like to be in the war. I think it would have been scary seeing friends and people you care about get hurt and die. It was cold but I enjoyed the trip and would like to go again'.

