



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Elmwood pupils shine during National School Sports Week: Mo Farah's mission

Elmwood School recently celebrated National School Sports Week from 17th-21st June 2024, embracing the spirit of athleticism and teamwork through "Mo Farah's mission." This exciting week saw pupils taking part in a variety of sporting activities and challenges, competing within their forms to accumulate the most active minutes possible and win the desirable Active Champions title, along with a Euro-inspired prize.

The week was meticulously planned with a range of activities designed to test and enhance the pupils' physical fitness while fostering a sense of healthy competition.



Here's a recap of the week's events: **Monster Monday** - the week kicked off with a bang as pupils participated in a sit-up challenge, eager to see how many sit-ups they could complete in one minute. Midweek, pupils took part in **Wicket Wednesday Tournament** pupils showcased their cricket ability from batting to bowling. Pupils' social time was filled with a thrilling cricket match and friendly competition (of course). For the grand finale **Field-Good Friday: Football Rounders** featuring a unique twist on traditional rounders by incorporating football skills. This hybrid game tested agility, coordination, and teamwork, providing a fun and engaging conclusion to an action-packed week.

Not only did this event highlight the importance of staying active and healthy but also reinforced our school values of caring for self, care for others and our environment. Both pupils and staff rose to the occasion, sparking a lot of friendly competition and most importantly fun. The enthusiasm was profound, with each form vying for the top spot and the honour of being named Active Champions!

Huge congratulations to all participants for their hard work and dedication. You all demonstrated exceptional commitment and team spirit. However, there was one form that went above and beyond. The form with the most calculated active minutes was...**9a**! title winners and proud recipient of the England Euros football well done 9a. Report by Miss Diponio, PE Teacher



THANK A TEACHER DAY

Thank you to the parents and carers who sent messages to staff as part of the Thank a Teacher (or any member of staff) Day that took place on Wednesday 19th June 2024.

It was lovely also to receive a message from an appreciative family member of a pupil in Year 9 addressed to all staff, expressing her thanks for all that staff do and stating that their child could not be in a better School.

These messages really mean a lot to those who receive them, so many thanks for making someone's day.

YEAR 11 LEAVERS ASSEMBLY

On Tuesday 2nd July we welcomed Year 11's back with parents/carers for their leavers assembly. The event was well attended, which was testament to the amount of support our pupils have received throughout their 5 years at Elmwood. The theme for the assembly was based on a cohort who have demonstrated real bravery within themselves as they have re-imagined their potential. Pupils all received a memory book, their MME highlight booklet, "Ignite you Future" striker box, virtues certificate and a handmade named key ring from our school's craft club. It was brilliant to see pupils signing shirts and laughing at pictures which depicted their journey at Elmwood. We are pleased to announce that 82% of the cohort have secured a Post-16 destination (with 2 pupils actively seeking employment). We wish pupils and their families a well deserved break and are all hopeful for positive GCSE results on 22nd August. Report by Mr Cross, Headteacher



FUNDAY FRIDAYS

Funday Fridays are a curriculum enhancement that look to support your child's personal development – and the breadth of the school's curriculum. Pupils progress through a carousel of activities. These activities act as vehicles to develop your child's **communication, leadership and preparation for adulthood** as well as them demonstrating the school's observable behaviours aligned to our values of Care for Self, Others and the Environment.

Staff will utilise the group's success within communication, leadership and preparation for adulthood to plan for opportunities to address in their next activity.

These experiences are a core component of your child's education and are not a reward trip. They are an essential experience that supports the school's curriculum. Report by Mrs Francis, Deputy Head

This half terms activities include: History immersion trip, plan a day activities, travel training, community work, plan a lesson, grow a tenner, a food experience, stem learning and a planned walk .

Here are a selection of IMPACT measures following this half terms experience:

Nurture	Transition	Pathways
 <p>7a took a trip to the Black Country Museum and enjoyed an immersive day stepping back into local history.</p>  <p>7b planned their own day to a local ice skating rink which was enjoyed by all. Special mention to Ethan C who helped Riley learn how to skate in record time- well done boys!</p> <p>8a navigated their way on public transport to the park. Great team work guys, well done.</p> <p>8b pulled together to put back into the community and delivered a giant food parcel that had largely been donated by staff and pupils. The donation was gratefully received by Morrisons.</p> <p>8c planned their own lessons that were delivered throughout the day. Huge well done and thanks to members of the group that contributed so positively.</p>	<p>9a set their sights on Growing a tenner by selling raffle tickets for a massive prize of sweets. Mrs Francis was thrilled to have won the massive bag of treats- thanks guys! The group raised in excess of £50 for school fund - amazing!</p>  <p>9b gave Food for Thought by experimenting and using their skills in the cooking room. A gastronomic extravaganza was enjoyed by all.</p>	<p>10a went on a reeeeeeealllllyyyy long walk around Sutton Park (with of course a mandatory game of football thrown in) - Mr Wood clocked up 20,000 steps that day!!</p>  <p>10b and Mr Hinsley enjoyed a day with Lego robots and STEM activities. The skills involved needed lots of thought, team work, collaboration and patience so well done to the team for making it a success.</p>  <p>The year 11 pupils and staff went out for one final time altogether to a local restaurant to reminisce on our time together and make plans for their exciting futures. We have no doubt that they now have the skills and strategies in their own toolkits to make them successful young adults as they arrive at the end of their Elmwood journey. Good luck guys....</p>

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is our Olivia Diponio, Teacher.

How long have you worked at Elmwood? *Just coming up to my second year now.*

What do you love about your job? *I love working with young people and connecting with them to help shape their lives. I love the fast-paced environment and how not one day is the same.*

What films have you watched recently? *Where the Crawdad's Sing (Drama/ Mystery) - Netflix starring a young girl (Kya) who lives isolated in the marshes of North Carolina. A hotshot is found dead in the town and Kya is the town's prime suspect.*

Favourite Holiday? *It would have to be Italy. Rome, Pisa and Florence such beauty there from the food, music and the architecture - magical.*

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear? *I have 11 scars and a birth mark in the shape of a rubber duck!*



PUPIL UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Our pupil under the spotlight this month is Ethan Palmer in Year 7b so a big thank you to for his responses:

What do you like most about coming to Elmwood School? *Out and about.*

Have you any thoughts about what you might like to do after leaving Elmwood? *Go to college, study computers.*

In your spare time, what do you most like to do? *I play Pal world and Pokemon.*

Have you done anything that we might be surprised to learn about? *I like to make my own cosplay outfits.*

If you could go anywhere or do anything, what would you choose? *I want to go to space. Also do more cosplays.*

GOVERNOR NEWS

We are sorry to say that Sandra Mills, who has been a governor for the past 3 years, will be ending her term of office at the end of term. Sandra has been a great asset to the team, especially in terms of her finance expertise and will be very sadly missed. A big thank you to Sandra and please keep in touch.

STAFFING NEWS

We were pleased to welcome Nicole Rose back to Elmwood School on 3rd July 2024. Nicole has been carrying out SCITT training at Barr Beacon School and was successful in securing a teaching post at Elmwood and will be delivering humanities and PSHEe. Nicole will be a great asset to the teaching team and we know pupils are eagerly awaiting being taught this popular subject.

Girls sports club kicks off the term

This term our school has launched an exciting new Girls Sports Club, led by the enthusiastic and dedicated Frankie Smith (teaching assistant). This club aims to encourage girls to get active, try out different sports, and most importantly, have fun!

Frankie has done a fantastic job in creating a supportive environment where the girls can develop their skills, build teamwork and make new friends.

Many girls have shared how much they look forward to the club each week and how it has sparked a newfound interest in sport they had never tried before. We hope to see even more girls join the club next year and continue this fantastic journey of fun, fitness, and friendship. Go team. Report by Mr Hawkes, Assistant Headteacher

NEWS FROM OUT AND ABOUT

THE MALVERN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

The Malvern Agricultural Show trip took place on Friday 14th June. Archie Rist, Phoebe Till, Ethan Cope, Riley Shorthouse, Kaiden Beech (selected on their progress in Out & About), along with Frankie Smith, teaching assistant, visited the Three Counties Showground, Malvern. It was a great educational opportunity for Elmwood pupils to become aware of a variety of different careers.

Pupils enjoyed getting involved with the Rescue and Army stands, trying on the equipment and holding weapons, sitting in the air ambulance cockpit as well as the work of the Severn Rescue Team. We really enjoyed the lumberjack tree climbing races. The farrier competition and blacksmithing event were interesting to see. Also, very popular were the animal marquees where we saw alpacas, goats and bees; we also saw tractors, quad bikes and off road vehicles. The behaviour of the pupils was exemplary and we were fortunate to have good weather.

BBQ TIME AGAIN

Our annual BBQ lunches have been run by myself again this summer. The weather was kind and we had lots of lovely sunshine and pupils enjoyed and were grateful of the treat. For some pupils it was their first experience of having a bbq.

A big thank you also to Lynne the cook for her help with making the above happen and all the support of our teaching assistants who helped to make everything run smoothly. Thank you also to the parents and carers who made voluntary donations towards the cost of the bbqs and also to school fund for its contribution of providing funding for additional bread rolls.

STAND UP

Building on the success of last year's Stand Up Paddling at Manor Park, we have managed to secure the ability for us to deliver this at Sutton Sailing Club, where we hope to offer sailing as Friday enrichment next year. The pupils have enjoyed this in the past and certainly have enjoyed it this time around, regardless of the weather. The Club has been so welcoming.

ON GUARD!

Watch this space for next year when a brand new activity will be coming to Elmwood. After managing to secure myself a space on an Instructor training course and qualifying as a Fencing Instructor, we then had the challenge of finding the extensive and expensive equipment second hand. This included gloves, masks, tunics, foils. After finding a club that were moving their older equipment on, we then had the hurdle of accessing this from Devon. Fortunately, the Leader was prepared to meet me 'half way' at Gloucester to pick up the kit in June. We have also accessed additional masks from Edinburgh. We are looking forward to offering this historic skill to our pupils, virtues of focus, honesty, resilience will be learnt through the etiquette of this activity.

Report by Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning.

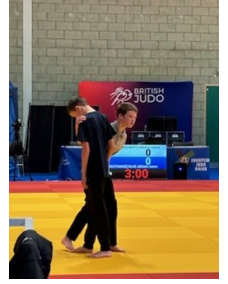
SAFARI PARK TICKETS

The Variety Club kindly gave us the opportunity to apply for free entry tickets to attend West Midlands Safari Park for two weekends in September.

Following submission of our application, we were thrilled to hear that we had been successful and we hope everyone has a great day out. If you are able to share any photos from on the day, these help support with future applications.

Elmwood pupils experience judo at the British Judo Centre

On the afternoon of Friday, June 14th, Elmwood pupils had an extraordinary opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of JUDO at the prestigious British JUDO Centre, located at the University of Wolverhampton. This session was led by a professional JUDO athlete, bringing both excitement and expertise to the pupils.



The session kicked off with an introduction to the fundamentals of JUDO, emphasizing the importance of safety and proper techniques. The pupils were first taught the Ushiro Ukemi, a Back Breakfall technique crucial for minimizing injury during falls. These techniques are not only essential in JUDO but also beneficial in everyday situations where balance and agility are tested. With safety skills in hand, the students moved on to controlling their opponents, a key element of the sport that involves both strategy and physical prowess.



This JUDO session at the British JUDO Centre was more than just a physical activity; it was an enriching experience that taught pupils discipline, respect, and the importance of mastering fundamental skills. The experience was a remarkable success, leaving the pupils energized and eager to continue exploring the world of JUDO. It served as a perfect example of how sports can be a powerful tool for education and personal development, inspiring the next generation of athletes and enthusiasts. This experience was a huge highlight for Elmwood pupils, offering them an unforgettable afternoon of learning, physical challenge, and fun. As they continue their journey in sports, the skills and lessons from this experience will undoubtedly stay with them, shaping their approach to both athletics and life. By Miss Diponio, PE Teacher

PE Reward Trip – Beaudesert Camp



On the 5th July, a group of our outstanding pupils had the incredible opportunity to participate in a PE reward trip to the scenic Beaudesert Camp. This adventure-filled day was packed with thrilling activities such as an assault course, high ropes, and abseiling, providing a perfect blend of challenge and fun.

The day kicked off with the high ropes course suspended high above the ground, this course demanded both bravery and balance. With harnesses securely fastened, pupils made their way through a series of rope bridges, vertical climbing frames, and tightropes whilst supporting each other both physically and verbally. The thrill of conquering fears and pushing personal boundaries was evident in their beaming smiles and enthusiastic chatter.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the abseiling experience. Pupils had the chance to rappel down a steep rock face, an activity that required courage and trust in their equipment and instructors. As each pupil descended (into a very muddy pit), they were met with applause and encouragement from their peers below, reinforcing the supportive and positive atmosphere of the trip.

As the day drew to a close, pupils received a very well-deserved hot chocolate/slush puppy and then boarded the bus back to school, exhausted but exhilarated. This PE reward trip to Beaudesert Camp was a testament to the incredible spirit and potential of our pupils, and we look forward to more such adventures in the future.

Well done and congratulations to the selected pupils namely Daniel, Christie, Archie Rist, Ethan Cope, Malachi Grainger, Lily-Mae Prescott, Sam Ashbery and Ellis Bird. We look forward to inviting many more of our pupils to new adventures in the future. Report by Ms Diponio, PE Teacher



SUMMER PRIZE DRAW

A big thank you to everyone who supported our summer raffle and helped to raise an additional £103 for school funds. The lucky winners were:

WHITLEY NEIL RHUBARB AND GINGER GIN—ALAN PRICE, TEACHER
SWEET HAMPER—GEMMA ARNOLD (c/o ELLIS BIRD, PUPIL)
CAPTAIN MORGAN RUM—LAYLA (c/o MCKENZIE GONDERTON, PUPIL)
FREXIXENT ROSE SPARKLING WINE—RUTH SANDERS (c/o KAIDEN BEECH, PUPIL)
AUTOGRAPH PERFUME SET—DARREN PICKFORD (c/o HARRY PICKFORD, PUPIL)
GORDONS ACLOHOL FREE PINK GIN—SI WOOD, TEACHER
SAINSBURYS IRISH CREAM LIQUER—LISA JONES (c/o CAITLIN WALKER, PUPIL)
FREXIXENT ROSE WINE—STACEY URMSON, TEACHING ASSISTANT
GALLO CHARDONNAY WHITE WINE—CHARLOTTE CLARKE, TEACHER
CAVA ROSE—LOUISA COUGHLIN-WILLIAMS (c/o GEORGE HANCOX, PUPIL)
ASTI STELLA WINE—SHELLI GEORGE, TEACHING ASSISTANT

Enjoy your prizes.

READING RAFFLE RESULTS

Well done to all pupils who have been given a reward raffle ticket this term following reading sessions. The prize draw took place on 15th July and the two lucky winners this term were Sophie Byrne in Year 8a and Malachi Grainger, also in Year 8a. Both received a £10 Amazon gift voucher for their efforts.

There were 48 raffle tickets in the draw so commiserations to those who did not win this time but good luck for the autumn term prize draw.

They escaped—Houdini escape room trip 2.7.24

Our maths 2E pupils were given the exciting opportunity in the summer term to visit a new escape room experience in Walsall after we had to rearrange the trip due to the school closure. When we arrived, we split into two teams with one team entering Alcatraz and the other entering room 13. Teams had to solve a range of problems from solving maths to English puzzles including measuring liquids to collecting letters to rearrange to get out of one room.



Only one team managed to escape room 13 with only a few minutes to spare cracking the code to the final padlock, unfortunately the other team were not so lucky. All pupils worked extremely hard to escape using teamwork, resilience and perseverance and lived up to Elmwood's core values of care for self, others and the environment. Maybe this year will be your opportunity to join us for two new escape rooms? Report by Mr Hinsley, Maths Teacher

SANDWELL CHARTER AWARD

Beverley Bailey invited Laura Payne from Walsall Reflexions Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) into our school to discuss the possibility of Elmwood School applying for the 'Sandwell Well-being Charter Mark'.

To receive this, the school must demonstrate 'A Whole School Approach to Supporting Well-being'. Laura and her team met with a group of parents/carers and pupils, who were able to share their stories, the support offered and any areas for development.

I would like to send my thanks to all of those who supported with these discussions. It was a pleasure to read the draft report from Laura which I will ensure, is added to the website once the final report has been written. Laura spoke highly about the setting and was excited to write the report. I am pleased to say that we have now been awarded 'The Sandwell Charter Mark' and this will be added onto our website in due course. Laura will present the award to Elmwood School on the 19th July 2024. Report by Bev Bailey, Family Support Liaison Officer/DSL