



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2017 – NO. 126

www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk

Message from the Head

As a school we are happy for some of our pupils to make their own way into school. We encourage independence.

However it has become obvious that some who are cycling here are taking risks. All of our pupils have had cycle proficiency training and when on school cycles wear helmets at all times.

The pupils who are cycling here on their own bikes are a: performing stunts such as wheelies on the road b: not wearing any protective equipment c: the bikes themselves are not street legal or safe..... front and/or rear brakes missing, no saddle, lights, bell etc.

Please be aware that if your child is cycling to school they should be doing so safely; the school cannot reasonably be held responsible if they are harmed on their own bikes and we are legally responsible for pupils on their way to and from school. We really don't want any of our young people ending up in hospital or worse. We like them as they are.

We may even be forced to confiscate bikes if they are blatantly dangerous. Please check out your child's bike and ensure that it is safe to be on the road. As the evenings are getting darker lights will be necessary as well.

Thank you.

Simon Hubbard, Headteacher

REWARD TRIPS

Pupils once again enjoyed the reward trips they had earned during the summer term on Friday 8th September when they visited Jump Xtreme at Tamworth (gold trip) or Ice Skating at Silver Blades Cannock (silver trip). All pupils had achieved either gold or silver status so there was no need for a bronze trip, which is an excellent result. A big thank you to the trip leaders Mr Francis and Ms Shaw, as well as Lynn Maritza, School Business Manager who organised all the bookings. Following the visit, Sue Lloyd, General Manager at Jump Xtreme emailed stating the following ‘yet again, they were a delightful bunch of kids so please pass on our thanks to them for being polite and respectful’ which is a credit to the pupils concerned. Pupils are now earning points ahead of the next termly trips due to take place on Friday 12th January 2018.

RAFFLE PRIZE APPEAL
We have started our Christmas preparations and would be very grateful to receive items that can be used as raffle prizes. If you think you have any items that we could use for this purpose, we would love to take them off your hands. We will be appealing for help with any other items nearer to the date which will be Thursday 21st December 2017. Many thanks.

GOVERNOR NEWS

Congratulations to Karen Sedgwick, LA Governor at the School who has recently been appointed as Headteacher at a local Birmingham School. This is a fantastic achievement and we wish Karen every success in her new role.

We are also pleased to confirm that Tina Ashford, mom to Jamie in Year 11, has been elected as a Parent Governor at the School. A big thank you to Mrs Ashford for this commitment and we look forward to welcoming her to the Autumn termly meeting on the 8th November.

FOLLOW THE SIGN!



Visitors to the School regularly struggle to find the right door for the main reception area. This problem has now been resolved with the addition of a new wooden planter and sign made by Mr Francis, DT Teacher. A big thank you to Mr Francis for organising this as not only is it working it looks great too!

STAFFING NEWS

Well done to Lynne Rymer and Teressa Lalley, our kitchen team, who successfully achieved a food hygiene rating of 5 (top mark!) following a recent inspection. The inspection by Environmental Health was very rigorous and robust and the result is testament to the hard work of those concerned—many congratulations both.

We also send Teressa our best wishes following a recent heart health issue. We hope she is soon on the mend to a full recovery.

Debbie Causer, teaching assistant in pathways, is having a few months away from School and will hopefully return looking refreshed and tanned when she comes back to Elmwood in the Spring.



During Debbie's absence, Rebecca Webbe, supply cover, will be based in Pathways base supporting our young people. Rebecca has settled in well and already forged good relationships.



Can I please take this opportunity to thank the Year 9 pupils and Ms Shaw for hosting the coffee morning and all of the staff and pupils involved in making the cakes. The buzz around the room was evident. It was a pleasure to see so many Year 7 families alongside our usual coffee morning parents and carers. As well as supporting a good cause and raising £133.00, it was also an opportunity for new parents and carers to meet with staff. Please can we thank families who could not attend for sending in donations and cakes. Thank you Kieren for your homemade cakes and Jamie Ashford for the wonderful coffee and mandarin gateaux which was used as a raffle prize.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING EVENT

Prize winners were Zoe Carter who won 'guess the weight of the cake' and Sue Clewley won the gateaux. A huge thank you to Sue for donating her prize back to School. She requested that the gateaux be shared between the hosts and staff. Jamie also took a piece home for his mum to taste! Look forward to seeing you all again soon. Best wishes from Bev and James, Family Welfare Officers.





VARIETY CLUB EVENT

We were once again successful in securing a number of tickets for parents and carers to use at West Midlands Safari Park on Saturday 14th October 2017. As a result twelve parents/carers and their families were given the opportunity to spend the day at the Park enjoying both the animals and the theme park. The weather was superb with lovely warm sunshine making the day even more perfect. Once again a very big thank you to the Variety Club for giving our young people this fantastic opportunity and to Mrs Hill and Mrs Leach for providing some images from on the day (more are available on our website).



PHOTOGRAPH ORDERS

Once again Tempest Photographers did a fantastic job when they visited School on Friday 22nd September taking some lovely images of our young people.

Any orders have now been sent and these should hopefully be returned in the next couple of weeks.

SCHOOL CLOSURE

A reminder that School is closed to pupils from 18th to 29th October due to training days and half term. Pupils return on Monday 30th October.



MELLOW YELLOW EVENT AS PART OF WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

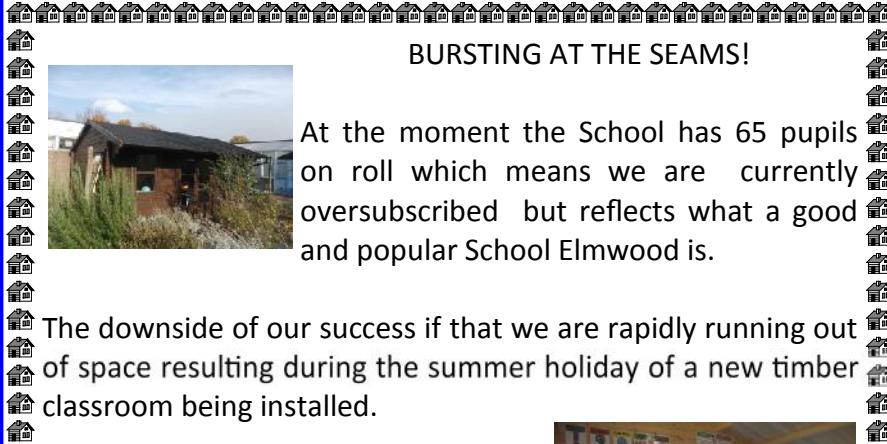
As part of 'World Mental Health Awareness Day' held on Tuesday 10th October 2017, the PE department organised an event called 'the mellow yellow mile' in order to help raise awareness around mental health. Overall the majority of pupils and staff completed the mile with most wearing something yellow for the day; and the sun shone too. We were also pleased that a number of parents came along to not only support the cause but to join in the event.

Thank you to all those who completed the mile. We hope that this event together with the hard work during lessons during the day will help to spread the awareness of our emotional and mental health. Report by Mr Hawkes, PE Teacher



MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

The first meeting of this academic year of the School Council took place on the 27th September 2017. As well as welcoming a representative from the new year 7 group, James Hawkins, Family Support Worker, also joined the group. Agenda items included magazine subscriptions, charities, medical diagnoses, console games, exam results, leavers destinations, Wolverhampton College visit, leadership skills, reading aloud and Ofsted. A very busy and productive meeting took place with all students acting professionally. The next one is due to take place on 12th December 2017.



BURSTING AT THE SEAMS!

At the moment the School has 65 pupils on roll which means we are currently oversubscribed but reflects what a good and popular School Elmwood is.

The downside of our success is that we are rapidly running out of space resulting during the summer holiday of a new timber classroom being installed.

This is now occupied by our Year 8a students who have soon transformed it into a lovely working environment thanks to Mr Wood and Hardeep Garcha.



CONSTRUCTION SITE VISIT



As part of the out and about curriculum we have been fortunate enough to visit a local building site on Floyds Lane; thanks to Seddons Construction Contractors giving the School this opportunity. Dan and Mick explained to the pupils about the possible employment and earning potential of working in the construction industry as well as the building process and the potential dangers found on site.

Elmwood pupils each laid a brick (not as easy as it appears), met some of the workers on site as well as learning about the English and Maths requirements to access an apprenticeship (more pictures are on our website).

It has been an eye opener for our pupils who have been made aware of some of the realities of a work place. This also follows on from similar visits to Pentalver in Cannock, last year and who will be visiting again in the future. Report by Mr D Whittaker, Outdoor Learning Teacher.



THE RED AND GOLD OF AUTUMN

To finish off this half-term's out and about programme, some year groups went on a nature walk where they had to find natural items beginning with each letter the alphabet as well generally having fun outdoors, playing some games and even a visit to a play park.



All pupils participated full and seemed to enjoy the afternoon, with the Pathways group finding the most items - as they should!



These autumnal photos include Year 8's having fun on the Gruffalo trail at Cannock Chase, Year 9's on Hedgesford Hills and play park and the Pathways group (Years 10/11) at

Sutton Park. Thanks to all the TA's for their assistance; Jo Hughes, Jade Lunt, Becky Knight and Kerry Bowen (more photos are available on our website). Report by Mr A Holmes, Teacher

NEWS FROM FOOD TECH

Our new year 7's are settling in well to a year of exciting cooking lessons taking part in taste testing for Black History month.



Year 8 students have been trialling out our new initiative of reading out load to help improve literacy skills.



Year 9's have made a flying start to their BTEC Level 1 Jamie's Home Cooking Sills course and also played a splendid part in supporting our MacMillan coffee morning.

Years 10 and 11 students have started their level 2 course and have also been busy celebrating Black History month taste testing lots of flavours from around the world.

The new term will begin with making dishes using seasonal food. Report by Ms H Shaw, Food Technology Teacher

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

We will be selling a variety of items for the annual poppy appeal from Monday 30th October, 2017.

School will be closed for a training day on Friday 10th November 2017.

We will be joining in with Children in Need by hosting a non uniform day on Friday 17th November donating a minimum of £1 to take part.