ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2018 – NO. 138

www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk

REMEMBRANCE EVENT

On Wednesday 7th November 2018 Elmwood School held its annual Armistice day service. We were once again joined by members of the Staffordshire Regiment, together with some of their partners, who braved the elements outside to deliver a poignant service to the whole school and any visitors. Following the event our visitors were treated to refreshments served by pupils as well as a moving rendition of 'Imagine' and 'We'll meet again' by members of the drama singing group. Well done to everyone involved, especially Ms Shaw, Bal Shaibber and Mr Webb, for all their hard work.

Pupils were a credit to the School showing respect and interest in what the veterans had to say.

A big thank you also to our poppy sellers in school, Habib Ahmed and Nathan Naylor in Year 11, who did a fantastic job and obviously are salesmen for the future as they actually sold out of some items. All proceeds from the sales go directly to the Royal British Legion who are always most appreciative.

<u>Out & About visits to the National Memorial Arboretum 2018</u>

Each year, near to the Armistice memorial day, the Out and About classes go to pay their respects on behalf of the school at the National Memorial Arboretum near Alrewas, Staffordshire. This year was particularly poignant as it marked 100 years since the end of World War 1 To commemorate this fact, some of the classes made rag-rug poppies in the weeks prior to the visit and then laid these in various places at the arboretum. Some laid theirs at the Wall of Remembrance, some under individual trees and some at the South Staffordshire Regiment memorial. All pupils were well behaved and respectful and some of the older pupils also chatted with other visitors who were paying their respects, to lost family members. Well done to all pupils, especially those who made some brilliant rag-rug poppies and thanks again to Mr Whittaker for organising it all.

Report by Mr A Holmes, Skills Development Coordinator

OFSTED VISIT

On 14-15th November, the School was visited by HMI Ofsted as part of their inspection process. A very big thank you to the parents and carers who completed the parent view surveys, which was very much appreciated. The visit was very thorough and pupils were a credit to the School; the inspectors spoke very highly of the positive attitude shown by pupils . In fact one pupil was thrilled to have the opportunity to speak directly to an Inspector, stating that at his old School he was asked to stay at home on the day of an Ofsted visit. Staff, as always, went the extra mile to ensure that the day went as smoothly as possible and we now await the formal report and action plan from Ofsted. This will be shared with parents and carers when available.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

The school will be taking part in a jointly run operation between Walsall Council, and West Midlands Police, called Operation Encompass. Encompass has been set-up to help schools provide support to children who have been present at incidents of domestic violence. We know that children can be significantly physically or emotionally harmed when they are involved in, present or witness to domestic violence. Lee Cross and Bev Bailey are our key named staff.

STAFFING NEWS

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

Angie Hinckson, who had been working on supply at the school as a teaching assistant, ended her time with us at the end of half term. We were pleased to welcome Nicolle Roberts onto the team and who will be with us until the end of term.

Ms Shaw, food technology teacher, is recovering from a recent operation and hopes to be back very shortly; fortunately she was able to pop into school for the Armistice Service and join in the event.

Marcia Allen, teaching assistant, is also absent due to ill health and we send her our very best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Ms Crosby is also absent from work at the moment and we wish her well.

Well done to our two NQT's Patrick Hinsley and Ashley Bullock, who graduated on Thursday 8th November at a special ceremony at Worcester Cathedral. Many congratulations to them both on their achievement.

TREES GALORE

We were once again successful with our application to the Woodland Trust to receive a number of trees. These have now arrived which means Mr Whittaker and pupils will be very busy planting during out and about lessons. The trees have been donated with support through Ikea, and staff from our local Wednesbury store have been invited to join in the fun of planting on Tuesday 4th December. A very big thank you to both the Woodland Trust and Ikea for their support in enhancing our school grounds.

PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT EVENT

Our next progress and achievement event will take place on Thursday 13th December 2018 when all parents/carers will have the opportunity to attend. At the meeting your child's autumn term report will be shared and targets set for the spring term. Appointment letters will be forwarded to you with your allocated time which we hope you are able to make. Refreshments will be available and you will also be able to catch up with our Senior Leadership Team and Family Welfare Officers during the course of the afternoon. We look forward to seeing you then.

STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING

The first meeting of the student council took place on 22nd October 2018 with Beverley Bailey and James Hawkins. New members were made welcome and expectations were set out by existing members (12 members in total). A previous review of the meeting held on 20th June took place with updates on matters raised discussed. On the agenda this time were radios, British Values, Charities, car washing and recent visitors to the School. Under any other business activities, school meals, noise and reflection rooms were discussed. A copy of the minutes from the student council are available on the students page of the school website. A big thank you to all students involved for their commitment and excellent behaviour.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

All staff and pupils will be enjoying a festive lunch on Wednesday 19th December. The cost of the meal is £1.95 for any pupil who does not normally purchase a school meal. Everyone is welcome to wear their festive jumpers with the option of donating a £1 which will be donated to a local homeless charity.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

With Christmas fast approaching the following events have been planned to which you are warmly invited to attend

Tuesday 18th December, 10.00 am to 12 noon coffee and mince pies will be served with a fundraising raffle taking place with lots of excellent prizes on offer (thanks to James Hawkins, Family Welfare Officer). Tickets costing 20p each will be available soon together with a list of the excellent prizes on offer. Following the refreshments parents and carers will have the opportunity to listen to the drama singing group perform a selection of Christmas Carols.

The drama group are busy rehearsing for the pantomime they will be showcasing to parents and carers, the show begins at 3 pm on 31st January 2019 and from the sneak preview seen, it is going to be another amazing show.

Have Your Say – Walsall Council Budget Consultatio

Parents and Carers are reminded to return the questionnaire and of workshops that are taking place re the above.

Walsall Council Children's Services are currently consulting on budget proposals which may have an impact on children and young people, and their families, accessing Home to School Transport support, Policy Proposal Reference Number 20.

It is important that everyone tells the Council their views about these proposals, whether you agree with them and what impact they could have. P**lease remember to return your questionnaire or complete online before 21 December 2018 when consultation finishes**

You can also go along to one of the following drop in sessions where Council Officers will be available for you to talk to, no need to book:

Date	Time	Locatic
Wednesday 28th November 2018	10:00–12:00	Mary Elliot School, Leamore Lane, Walsall WS2 7NR
Thursday 29th November 2018	17:30–19:30	Education Development Centre. Pelsall Lane, Walsall, WS4 1NG

Children's Services are also consulting on two other proposals:
Proposal Reference No:18 Review Overnight Short Breaks for Disabled Children at Bluebells
Proposal Reference No:19 Review of Contracts within Toxic Trio for Perpetrator and Counselling Services

More information about these and the Council's other budget proposals, and to have your say, please visit:
www.walsall.gov.uk/budgethaveyoursay

EXCELLENT PIECE OF WORK

Aaron in Year 11 has produced an excellent piece of work as part of his Asdan course work. This was centered around Anxiety and how this makes Aaron feel. So good was the work that it has been put on to the students page of the School Website. Please take a look at what Aaron has to say; we think it will prove useful for other young people.

Contact Newslette
The latest newsletter from Contact is available on our school website, parents and carers page, which includes information on £2 pantomime tickets, tips for managing behaviour over the festive season, EHCP workshops that are being run in the New Year. Advice or information is available via the helpline number of 0808 808 3555.

Match Report - Monday 19th November 2018

As the students turned up at Villa Park they were nervous to see what the day would bring. Conversations on the coach consisted of tactics and game plans as all pupils were determined to do well and showcase their abilities on the pitch. Students quickly got their heads in the game and headed out onto the pitch to warm up and prepare. As the fixtures were announced, Elmwood knew they had some really tough games straight from the off and realised they needed to give it their all.

Elmwood were to face Lindsworth in their first fixture so stepped on to the pitch into their positions. We unfortunately went 2-0 down in the first 5 minutes but maintained focus and continued to battle on. With great tackles from Jake Hall it managed to keep us in the game and all pupils battled to try and score a goal. With all pupils pushing forwards on the attack this left us vulnerable at the back and we conceded a late goal to finish 3-0 to Lindsworth.

Elmwood regrouped and stepped out for their second match against Shenstone. Cameron Willets played a vital role in this game by changing to a defensive position to win some huge tackles and prevent Shenstone from scoring early on. However, late in the game we conceded 1 late goal and our concentration slipped allowing Shenstone to secure another 2 goals and make the score 3-0 at full time.

Elmwood were up to face Skilts in their next game and Nathan Walton confidently stepped up to take the role of goalkeeper allowing Harry Moore to make some fantastic tackles in the centre of the pitch and dominate throughout the game. However Skilts continued to press and finally managed to secure 2 goals to seal the game making the score 2-0.

Nevertheless in true Elmwood fashion, pupils once again stepped out on to the pitch with determination to win their next game! Elmwood were up against Keyham in their final game who were not going to be an easy game at all. Kevin Read played a pivotal role in setting up Cameron Willetts who managed to score some amazing goals and even get himself a hat trick!!! The game finished 3-1 to Elmwood and all pupils were ecstatic with their achievement.

Please congratulate the pupils on their fantastic achievement and the way they conducted themselves at the event.

Report by Mr A Bullock, PE Teacher

EARLY APPEAL—POPPIES NEEDED

You may be aware of the fantastic display created locally in Aldridge, aptly named 'Poppy Road' as part of the 100 year remembrance event. Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning, is looking to replicate something similar next November in School. He is therefore appealing for donations of any red or black wool so knitting/crocheting can begin. Of course, any volunteers to help with the creation of the poppies, would be greatly appreciated. Mr Whittaker will be able to provide the pattern if you are able to help in any way with the above.