



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2019 – NO. 141

www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The second School Council meeting of this academic year took place on Tuesday 29th January when Miles in Year 8c was welcomed as a new member. A review of the previous meeting took place when new staff, leadership in School Council, toilets, school uniform, MIS, radios and Charities were discussed. It was agreed to forward the £43.30 raised through staff car washing during Friday afternoon activities be sent to Birmingham Children's Hospital to help support their good work. Covered this time were curriculum matters such as British Values, SRE, the School's teaching and learning policy, Science and their work on plastic and recycling, Operation Encompass and news on an Autism Working Group. Under any other business, school assemblies, noise and the provision of fruit in school were raised. Mrs Bailey and Mr Hawkins were once again proud of the members whose behaviour and attitude were exemplary.

COMPLETION OF DVLA FORMS

Our family support team work extremely hard to support parents/carers on a day to day basis, this work is essential and beneficial in maintaining parental engagement. Our school roll has continued to grow and all of our pupils have the opportunity to access DLA, this additional pressure has been felt by the Family Support Team in completing a number of these forms for parents/carers so far this academic year. As a Leadership Team we have decided that a cost of £20.00 is to be incurred if parents/carers would like school to support them in their application. This money will go into school fund to support our work with your children but acknowledges the additional time that staff spend completing these forms at the end of the working day.

Those parents who have already submitted their requests will incur no charge. Thanks for working with us in achieving this common goal. Report by Mr Lee Cross, Acting Head

SILENT AUCTION FUND RAISER

To help raise additional monies for our private school fund account which is used solely to benefit pupils, a silent auction was held for staff.

Items were generously donated by staff and then anyone had the opportunity to put a secret bid in for items they took a liking to.

As a result £75.52 was raised with any unsold items being donated to a local charity store.

A big thank you to everyone who donated and participated in this fundraising event, your support was much appreciated.

FANTASTIC DONATION

We were thrilled to receive a cheque from Lorraine Stobie at South Staffordshire PLC in the sum £500 to assist with the help and support we offer our young people. This money will make a big difference to our school fund account and we are extremely grateful to South Staffordshire PLC for their support. A big thank you to James Hawkins, Family Welfare Officer, who initially contacted Lorraine resulting in such a generous donation.

STAFFING NEWS

We welcomed Mr Hubbard, Headteacher, back to School on Monday 25th February following his recent absence. Mr Hubbard will be in School on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

A big thank you to Mr Cross, who has done an excellent job of covering the post of Acting Head full time since Mr Hubbard's absence in September. Mr Cross will continue as Acting Head on Tuesdays and Thursdays with Ms Lloyd continuing her time of Acting Deputy to Tuesdays and Thursdays also.

Mr Donaldson continues to be absent from School and we send him our very best wishes as does Jenna Wilkins, Teaching Assistant in nurture.

Di Cadman continues to improve following her recent operation and we hope that Di will be returning shortly. It was lovely to see her when she popped into School recently.

We are currently advertising for a Teacher of Maths and for two teaching assistant posts (one full time and one part time). Once interviews have taken place for these vacancies, we will update you on any successful appointments.

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

4.2.19

Pupils took part in a number of activities as part of the above awareness scheme.

Pupils in Year 7a were especially industrious and decided to make loom bands to sell and raise funds towards a mental health charity.



The boys soon sold out of the blue and pink bands which cost just 50p and helped to raise £14.00.

Well done to all concerned, you did a fantastic job.

COFFEE MORNING—WEDNESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2019

Alison Payne, our School Nurse, came to our recent coffee morning to introduce herself and a new service which is now available to pupils and parents. Services available are Health for Kids (www.healthforkids.co.uk), Health for Teens (www.healthforteens.co.uk) and Chat Health is a confidential text service for parents and carers and over 11's (07480635363). A huge thank you to Alison who has taken the time to visit.

It was lovely to see Sue Clewley, one of our parents, who gave a good understanding of difficulties associated with ASD and ADHD. Sue was able to explain how the School has supported her and her children and how working in partnership with parents is the key to improved outcomes.

Courses that are available for parents run by our School Nursing Team are:

- Understanding Your Child's Behaviour
- Toileting Workshop
- Living Healthy Lifestyles
- Adult Resilience – Strong Not Tough
- Understanding Your Child's Behaviour
- Understanding Your Child's Emotions
- Cygnets Parenting

CONTACT FOR FAMILIES WITH DISABLED CHILDREN

The latest newsletter from Contact West Midlands is now available on our School Website, parents and carers page. Included items are £2 panto tickets for Jack in the Beanstalk, information of Over the Wall, free camps and Kids Short Breaks. Check out the spring edition for other interesting and useful articles.

CRISP PACKETS NEEDED PLEASE

We are currently trying to support Guide Dogs for the Blind by saving any empty crisp packets as part of their fund raising scheme.

If you can please send any packets into School pupils will be able to leave in the various drop off points around the building. Many thanks in advance for your support.

SUPPORT FROM PERIOD POWER

We are very grateful to Linda Allbutt the Chair and Founder of Period Power, a Charity which supplies schools and charities with free sanitary ware. We have now received a generous supply of sanitary pads that will help support female students in School.

Thank you also to Ms Lloyd, Acting Deputy, for organising this useful donation.

MOMO CHALLENGE AWARENESS

Parents and Carers are advised to be aware of a new online suicide game called Momo which targets young children on social media. The eerie game is synonymous with the face of a girl with long, black hair and big bug-like eyes staring straight through the lens and encourages them to add a contact on messaging service WhatsApp or it can also be played via Facebook, YouTube and other online platform. It encourages children to self-harm then hounds them with violent images and dares and the ultimate post to them to take their own lives.

WMP ONLINE SERVICE

We have been made aware of a service that is available from West Midlands Police called WMP-ONLINE. The service offers the public 'live chat' with an advisor, search advice, individual case tracking and the capability to report NON-emergency crime online. 'IF IT IS NOT 999 SEARCH;:WMP ONLINE'

FRIDAY AFTERNOON FUN



Last half term pupils had the option for Friday afternoon enrichment activities to choose to climb at Wolf Mountain indoor wall. This has proved a popular

option and this year included the ability to abseil for the first time



As you can see from the photos a great time was had by all who took part and showed lots of courage.

NON UNIFORM DAY

On Friday 15th March 2019 Elmwood School will be helping to raise funds as part of the fundraising appeal organised by Comic Relief.

Therefore any pupils and staff who would like to wear non uniform on this day and make a minimum donation of £1 are welcome to do so.

All contributions will be gratefully received by this worthwhile Charity.

NEWS FROM THE BEACON

The Beacon based at 30 Station Street, Walsall (opposite Walsall train station) run regular drop in sessions which young people can access on a Monday as well as during school holiday periods. Further information and guidance from the Beacon (Drug and Alcohol advisers) is available on the School website, parents/carers page.

