



# ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2020 – NO. 159

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## Register monitor appointment

We are pleased to confirm that Kacey in Year 11 has been appointed as the School's register monitor.

Kacey has already proved that she is very capable of carrying out this duty having acted previously as a deputy monitor. Due to the requirement for pupils to remain in bubbles, Kacey is currently only looking after the pathways base until such times as she can resume full responsibility for this role.

Congratulations Kacey we know you will do an excellent job.

## KEEPING US SAFE

A big thank you to our cleaning and caretaking staff namely Julie, Carol and Richard who are working tirelessly to keep the School not only clean but also safe.

Their diligence in keeping the building looking pristine has meant the School remaining open and COVID free. Well done to the team and enjoy the half term rest.



## PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

A big thank you to both Joanna Hall and Sarah Thornton for putting themselves forward for the above vacancy.

As a result of the parental ballot we can confirm that Joanna Hall was elected as a parent governor for the period 13.10.20 to 12.10.24.

A very warm welcome to Joanna Hall who will be joining our other two parent governors and we look forward to Joanna attending her first meeting on 12th November 2020.

## POPPY SALES

We are supporting the British Legion in their annual poppy appeal in the sale of poppies from now and up to 11th November 2020.

Due to the restrictions in school we will not be appointing an overall poppy seller but each base will have the opportunity to purchase poppies with a minimum of 20p for a poppy and other items costing £1 and £3.

In these difficult times we know that the British Legion are very thankful for any support received, so please dig deep to help this worthwhile good cause.



## FISHING AT FOXHILLS FISHERY

Recently Foxhills Fishery has changed hands and now has



new owners. I would like to thank them for their hospitality, allowing our wonderful school to continue to use the facilities there. Fishing at Elmwood is heavily subscribed and only a fortunate few get chosen each week based on the points they have earned through lessons. For this reason, it is very important that our youngsters have the chance to achieve this reward every Friday afternoon thus improving their engagement in education.

In addition, I would also like to thank Foxhills Fishery for the donations of fishing equipment and reading material along with Harry (a regular angler at Foxhills) who has also

donated some equipment. All donations are gratefully received as the

budget for this involvement is minimal.

Report by Mr Wood, Teacher



## SANITARY WARE REMINDER

A reminder for all our female pupils that there are free sanitary items available thanks to Period Power and monies provided by the DfE.

Please see either Lynn or Dawn in the office or Bev as and when required.

## WALSALL OUTREACH HARVEST APPEAL

We are trying to support this local charity in their appeal for food, nappies, baby milk, toiletries and sanitary products. During the Covid 19 pandemic they have been assisting families with children, the elderly, vulnerable and isolated with food parcels.

Currently they reach out to 60 families and individuals a week providing them with a food parcel.

If you are able to make any contribution to the items needed, can you please forward asap so that they can be collected by the charity after half term.

## STAFFING NEWS

We sadly said goodbye to Dawn Nicholls, teaching assistant from transition base, on 7th October. Dawn has worked at the school for a number of years initially full time before moving to part time five years ago. Dawn is looking forward to spending time with her family and putting her feet up. Take care Dawn, you will be missed.

As a result of the above Steve Lea, has joined us on supply from Cert Solutions. Steve has quickly settled in and is enjoying his time at Elmwood.

Charlotte Clarke, teaching assistant, has begun her ITT in English training which will involve her spending time both on placement at Elmwood as well as at Barr Beacon. We wish Charlotte every success in her professional development.

## SCHOOL FUND ACCOUNT

Our voluntary school fund account was once again kindly audited by Norma Stamps.

Monies in this account, which is from voluntary/fundraising donations, is used solely for the benefit of pupils and supports in many ways.

A big thank you to everyone who has helped to contribute enabling this money to benefit our young people.



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Elmwood is in its 11th year of celebrating Black History month.

Year 7's were treated to taste testing a range of food in which they had to describe how the food looked, smelt, taste and felt. This included fried bammy, corn, bun and sweet dough, fresh fried plantain, sweet potatoes, fresh mango—pupils also chewed on some very sweet and sticky raw sugar cane as well as trying some cheeky shots of aloe vera, sarsaparilla, fruit punch and a chocolate milo drink.

Years 8-11 have produced southern fried chicken with sweet potato chips, Cuban tomato soup, ackee and saltfish, South African bobotie, Jamaican mango dessert, jerk chicken, fried dumplings, pig tails, Caribbean coconut chicken and Costa Rican empanadas.



It has been a fantastic opportunity for all of our pupils to try out foods from other cultures.

I would like to thank a member of staff from Crossroads in Walsall for all her advice and support with regards to the above recipes. Pupils and staff can help themselves to copies of the recipes of what we have cooked from the display opposite food technology room

Report by Ms Hilary Shaw, Food Technology Teacher

## Wellbeing at Elmwood.

### Wellbeing Wednesday for staff

As part of the wellbeing programme for the academic year 2020-21, every half term staff have the opportunity to choose an activity after school to support their mental health and wellbeing. It is a chance for staff



to get out of their comfort zones while trying something new; socialise with others; keep active; get creative and above all have fun.

This half term included four activities: dance, art, woodwork and team working. In the dance activity the staff

performed a street dance routine with the guidance of a tutor. The art activity had a focus on wax trapping and stitch using teabags to create a design. Within the woodwork workshop staff created desktop campfires and in the team-working workshop, two teams battled it out in a variety of physical and mental challenges.



### Feel Good Friday for pupils

This academic year has provided us with opportunities to further support our pupils mental health and wellbeing through a scheduled slot in our week dedicated to supporting mental health. We call this Feel Good Friday. Each week there is a different theme or focus and this term has been all about 'life after lockdown'. Pupils have discussed their aspirations, goals and feelings of lockdown during these sessions. In addition to this, pupils participated in a mellow yellow mile to raise awareness for mental health. The pupils who completed the most laps were Re'Shea from nurture base, Miles from Pathways base and Josh from Pathways base. All will receive prizes in an assembly for showing resilience and grit to keep going during the event.

Report by Mr Martin Hawkes, Assistant Headteacher

