



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER JUNE 2021 – NO. 167

www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Due to the extension of the national restrictions, as a school we have decided to alter the final days of the summer term to enable us to have a purposeful and successful transition for our incumbent Year 6 pupils. These transition days are vital in reducing anxieties for our pupils and their parents/carers. This compromise made by our current Elmwood Community will be a further demonstration of showing the Elmwood Way in how we care for others and care for the environment.

Therefore, we are proposing that Thursday 15th July will be your child's last day in school (as school will be closed on Friday 17th July for our final INSET Day), so that we can welcome the Year 6 pupils on site for Monday 19th – Wednesday 21st July 2021 enabling us to maintain the integrity of our bubbles and not risking any potential spread of COVID-19 before your well earned break over the Summer Holidays. Your child will be provided with some home learning opportunities if you feel they would benefit from some structure. Lee Cross, Headteacher



MURDER MYSTERY

It's a complete mystery.

As a BBC newsflash announces, there has been a murder committed close to Elmwood School. An unassuming individual has met an untimely end. Was the motive money, jealousy or even something more complicated? Elmwood crime solving divisions are mobilised to solve this crime.

This activity helps develops all of the logical thinking and problem-solving skills required in modern workplaces, whilst having fun of course. So who is the culprit? Time will tell....



Report by Mr Bowen Head of English

FREE TREES



We have once again been successful in our application to receive trees from the Woodland Trust. Pupils are being kept busy during their out and about lessons having received 420 wild harvest saplings which will be planted around the school playing field; enhancing not only this area but our outdoor learning space. A big thank you to the Woodland Trust for their continued support.

MANY CONGRATULATIONS



What a special day Rose Burley, governor at Elmwood had on Wednesday 26th May 2021 when she officially became the Mayor of Walsall for the coming year.

Rose who is also a local Councillor will have her daughter Maria and grand-daughter Jade as her Mayoral consorts. Rose's chosen charities will be Phoenix French Bulldog Rescue, Alzheimer's Society and Walsall Foster Carers Association.

We already know how hard Rose works for the local community and we send our very best wishes on her appointment. Well done.

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Julie Burnell, Head Cleaner and kitchen assistant.

How long have you worked at Elmwood

I started working in this building in 2000 when it was Manor Farm then moved over to Elmwood in 2008 .. where have all those years gone?!!

What do you love about your job?

I like to think I take pride in my cleaning job as I can just get on with things and like a nice clean school for the staff and pupils to come into. I also enjoy my dinner time role as I can interact with the pupils.

What film have you watched recently?

I am not a massive film fan .. more of a series binger but if I do watch a film I do tend to like true stories—Believe Me was the last one I watched .

What was your favourite holiday?

I love the Canaries but my favourite one would have to be Gambia , I was lucky enough to visit one of the villages and saw a real insight to how they live - women walking around with big bunches of bananas on their heads, laundry wrapped in sheets and just such lovely people; they even had a bottle beer named after me—Jule!

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear?

Well as you know I can talk for England sometimes but I am really quite a shy person.



PLANTERS

A big thank you to the Seeds School, who occupy the rear of Elmwood School, for the two planters that were donated to Elmwood



recently.

The planters were made by their year 10 students in enterprise lessons with their construction tutor, Colin White, and have helped to brighten up our garden area at the front entrance.

Many thanks to the Seeds School once again for their kind gift.



GOVERNOR NEWS

As a result of James Hawkins ending his time at Elmwood School, a vacancy is available for a new staff governor to join the governing body.

The closing date for applicants is 2nd July so we will let you know who the new member of the team is in the next edition of our school newsletter.



At the end of summer term one we said farewell to our Year 11 pupils in food tech by providing them with a buffet meal for all their hard work that they have completed for the BTEC Home

Cooking Skills course.

The food was prepared by the Year 10 BTEC pupils and another amazing team that were Year 7b. They really are our up and coming Elmwood chefs. Well done.

Over the years Year 11 have participated in all school events preparing, cooking and serving food for guests and now it was their turn to put their feet up and be the guests.



A great day was had by all.

Report by Ms Shaw, Food Technology Teacher

Farewell to our Year 11 pupils



STAFFING NEWS



On Tuesday 15th June, Julie Burnell, cleaner and kitchen assistant, celebrated a special birthday. Julie was presented with a number of gifts and cards from her colleagues and had a lovely day. Many congratulations Julie.

On Friday 25th June we said farewell to James Hawkins, Family Support Worker, who is moving back to a mainstream post. James has worked at the school for nearly 4 years and during his time has forged good relationships with not only staff but pupils, parents/carers and other professionals. James also supported the school in taking on the role of staff governor which was also appreciated. Dilan in Year 7 proudly presented James with a leaving gift of a cushion and cake (that Dilan had made himself, a budding chef of the future) which James was really touched to receive. We wish James every success in his new role.



On Monday 28th June, Chris Young, Teaching Assistant, also celebrated a very special birthday. Chris was presented with cards and gifts as well as a rousing chorus of Happy Birthday. Congratulations Chris.

FUNDAY FRIDAY



As part of the Friday sessions that Mrs Francis, Assistant Headteacher, has arranged, Year 9m

completed a litter pick for supporting the local community. There were three pupils who took part together with two members of staff, Mr Holmes and myself. We walked from school up to the canal, all the way along the canal to the park, down Barns Lane, through Rushall park and then back to school. The boys did amazingly well and were very enthusiastic. We filled seven bags, a bin full of litter and other discarded rubbish. Well done boys. Report by Mr Wood, Year 9 teacher

CAREERS TASTER

Pupils in 10b have successfully completed a six week virtual work experience with Independent and Work Ready (IWR)

where they have researched and observed different domains of printing and designing their own article of clothing, accessory or kitchen item. IWR were extremely pleased with the effort and commitment shown by Elmwood pupils which resulted in some amazing products being produced. I would like to thank Ashley Holmes and Jo Hughes in supporting this valuable experience.

Report by Mr Lee Cross, Headteacher



A Busy Summer Term



Pupils have been busy this term in Out & About lessons. They have enjoyed planting potatoes at the allotment and will be harvesting, cleaning, cooking and eating these at the allotment later in the year. Our pupils have also enjoyed their visits so that they can meet the ten rescue chickens cared for on our plot. These are the responsibility of the volunteers at Winterley Lane, who kindly gave up their time to explain about the chickens including how to pick them up and hold them.



Pupils have also planted 430 trees on our School site, painted their 'random acts of kindness stones', which will be hidden in the woods next term. Each base has enjoyed their bbq, as well as the introduction of a visit to the pick your own fruit from Essington Fruit Farm, where some attempted to eat their own body weight in fruit!!



Pupils in Years 7 and 8 have been treated to the annual trip to Sheepwash Farm, where staff saw lots of advances such as the new market garden and new children's nursery. We didn't miss out on our usual fun on the trailer, in the lake and learning lots about farming and eco energy.

The start of term saw the whole staff Out & About training day, where colleagues learnt about the new 'Theory of Change' that supports the learning in Out & About and had fun carving wood, biking and took away their very own tie dye t shirt. Report by Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning