



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2021 – NO. 172

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WISHING EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND 2022

YEAR 10 VISIT TO KIDZANIA—1.12.21



On Wednesday 1st December Year 10 pupils finally got to go on their much awaited visit to Kidzania in London. Covid disruptions and regulations have meant these pupils couldn't go in May as planned so have waited patiently until now.

An early start meant staff and pupils could be on the road for 8 am maximising time in the unique indoor city. Kidzania is a place where pupils are given the freedom to be whoever they want to be and explore their individual passions, talents and skills through a range of educational, exciting and immersive experiences. Replicating real life, pupils get the opportunity to earn currency in role-play professions which they can then spend on experiences, or purchase souvenirs. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate the relevance of working hard in a given career and reaping the rewards of their hard earned Kidzania pennies!

Pupils made a really positive impression on staff and because the centre was relatively quiet, pupils had plenty of opportunities to try many diverse experiences from window cleaning, to working with the Emergency service, to being a vet, to being a professional drummer!

Following their enriching experience we went to a restaurant for a well earned meal and a drink (and a rest!) before heading home.

Huge credit to the Year 10 pupils who attended and engaged fully with the day getting the most out of this careers experience. The 12 hour day meant we all had to be on best behaviour for a long time but I'm proud and privileged to say it was an absolute pleasure to spend a day together and see Team Year 10 work collaboratively and independently to ensure the day was enjoyable.

Huge thanks to the staffing team (Deb, Michelle D, Leon and Paul) who drove the long journeys and made this day not just possible but so enjoyable.

I'm excited for the Year 9s who will get to go in the New Year!

Report by Mrs Francis, Assistant Headteacher

BUSY TIME IN FOOD TECHNOLOGY



Christmas is always a busy time in food technology with lots of lovely different projects going on with all pupils. The Year 7 pupils have been making stained glass windows and fondant robins; Year 8 pupils have been designing Christmas pizzas, Year 9 pupils have made and decorated gingerbread houses and finally pupils in Years 10 and 11 have been making Christmas dinners, mince pies and sausage roll wreaths.



The BTEC pupil group helped out with the Christmas fayre and have demonstrated to our Year 7 pupils how to lay a table for the school's Christmas dinner.

Report by Ms Shaw, Food Technology Teacher



UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Marcia Allen, Teaching Assistant.

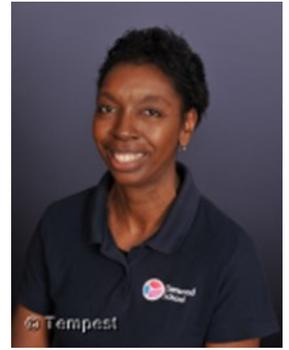
How long have you worked at Elmwood? *13 years.*

What do you love about your job? *I love that everyday at Elmwood is different.*

What films have you watched recently? *King Richard, No Time to Die and Bruised*

Favourite Holiday? *Oshawa in Canada*

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear? *I worked as a nanny in Sicily.*



SPREADING SOME JOY

You may recall that pupils have previously painted stones which have then been left in the community during out and about lessons.



We were thrilled to find out on 6th December that one of these have been found in Sutton Park when we received an email from someone called Joshua.

From the initials on the stone it looks as if this was one created by Jack in Year 8b—well done Jack on helping to spread some joy to a stranger.

CHRISTMAS GIFT

All pupils had a nice surprise when they returned to their classrooms following the Christmas lunch on Tuesday 14th December where they found a selection box waiting for them.

A big thank you to Stan Canham (Dawn in the office's husband) who kindly wrapped the 72 boxes—he is now an expert wrapper!

The selection boxes are made possible through our School Fund account.

GREAT WORK BY 7B

This term pupils have looked at creating different styles of poems and 2 pupils in 7b have created some amazing poems for Christmas this year! What amazing work!

Caring for our elders
Houses full of decorations
Riding a sleigh
Ice on the rooftop
Stockings on the fireplace
Tree's in the living rooms
Making a snowman
Asking for gifts

Santa Claus is coming to town—poem by Aidan Garbett

Candy canes and treats ready to eat
Ho-ho-ho the jolly man is watching you
Rudolph giving light off of his shiny nose
It's nearly Christmas time
Stockings ready to be filled
Toys and trains all wrapped up
Mrs Claus making mice pies
Are you naughty or nice?

Santa's sleigh is ready to ride—poem by Jayden Jones

Report by Mr Bullock, Teacher

SPACE CENTRE TRIP



On Thursday 2nd December a number of pupils identified as 2E (twice exceptional) attended a trip to the

national space centre to stretch their understanding of space and to reward all their hard work over the past term. In the morning pupils got a chance to drive a Mars rover around a track, explore the insides of what the space centre is like and experience what take off in a space shuttle could feel like. Before lunch we went to watch the film 'astronauts' in a planetarium on how space changes their bodies and what they do to overcome challenges they face in space. After lunch pupils set their own miniature rockets off powered by pressurised water. Finally, before we headed home pupils saw two huge used rockets that spanned over six floors.

Report by Mr P Hinsley, Teacher



Christmas Fayre—2.12.21

Thank you to everyone who came along on Thursday 2nd December and supported our fundraising Christmas Fayre event and performance by our singing group. The morning was a great success, aided by pupils in Year 11 as part of their Asdan coursework (Callum, Jack, Miles and Theo).



Stalls included a tombola, chocolate tombola, bottle tombola, bric a brac, craft items (many made by pupils and included jewellery using the previously donated kit from Lindsey Hickman) and refreshments. Stalls were manned by pupils (supported by staff), who were brilliant at getting people to part with their money!

A big thank you to the following Companies who were able to donate prizes for our raffle draw:

The Blakemore Foundation	£25 Spar voucher (see photo of Theo with the manager of the Pelsall Spar store)
One Stop, Brownhills	Large Cadbury's chocolate bar
Morrisons, Willenhall	Tub of chocolates/selection box
SEN Central	£70 Argos voucher
Cert Solutions	Kindle Fire
The Grand Theatre	4 tickets for Cinderella pantomime
Jump XTreme	4 tickets to Jump Xtreme
Help to make tummies full	Percy Pig sweet hamper



The lucky winners were:

Shelli George	Amazon Kindle
Caroline Bratt	£70 Argos gift voucher
Lisa Gosling	4 tickets to Cinderella
Matt Webb	Christmas hamper
Ash Bullock's mom	Sweet hamper
Jo Hughes	Bottle of Pimms
Carson Price	Bottle of Pink Fizz
JJ and Tyler Jones	4 tickets to Jump Xtreme
Sarah Thornton	Morrisons chocolate hamper
Jack Poxon	Percy Pig hamper

The silent auction raised £24.76 with winning items being won by Shelli George, Lynn Maritza and Dawn Canham.

Thanks also to Charlotte Clarke's mom who knitted beautiful snowmen and father Christmas decorations, Shelli George for the craft items made with pupils, Hilary Shaw for organising the mince pies and refreshments and lastly James Hawkins, who organised the event and worked tirelessly to ensure it was a success.

Matt Webb and his singing pupils put on two great shows for parents/carers, governors and staff to enjoy in the drama room. Di Cadman, associate member governor, attended both productions and said it was the best one ever. Very well done to all pupils involved, you were all stars.

Finally a thank you to parents/carers and staff who provided items during our two non uniform days which really helped with the tombola stalls. As a result of everyone's generosity we were able to raise £433.25 which will help support pupils with the little extras that may be needed.

ENTERPRISE SCHEMES



Not only have pupils in Years 10c/11c produced personalised leather key rings for staff to purchase at a bargain price of £1 each but also Logan Gosling in Year 8 made personalised Christmas tree decorations. Logan produced his own poster—and enjoyed making up his orders during Funday Friday on 10th December. Well done to all our talented pupils (supported by staff) on making some beautiful pieces of work.

Science KS3 Competition



The pupils were asked to design a poster on the theme 'Looking bigger - looking smaller'.

Well done to the following pupils:

- 1st Prize of a microscope set
Mkenzie Gonderton
- 2nd Prize a selection box –
Jayden Jones
- 3rd Prize a selection box –
Logan Gosling



Well done to all the other entrants, without whom there wouldn't have been a competition and a big thankyou to the judges: Beverley Bailey, James Hawkins (Family Welfare Officers) and Miles Hall (Yr 11 pupil).

Report by Dr Alan Price, Science Lead Teacher

SUPPORT FROM KEEP TUMMIES FULL

A big thank you once again to Lucy from Help to Make Tummies Full who came to the rescue when one of our parents was struggling and provided a week's supply of groceries to be delivered to School. A big thank you to Tracey Jackson, Teaching Assistant, who kindly dropped off the shopping to the grateful parent and also to James Hawkins, Family Welfare Officer, who organised it.

Lucy and her team once again provided a number of parents and carers with Christmas hampers/Christmas gifts. We know how much these were appreciated last year by the lucky recipients and will help to make an enjoyable Christmas time. A big thank you to Paul Crooke, Site Manager and Waj and his team from NA Cars, who helped with the collection/distribution of these parcels.

STAFF /GOVERNOR NEWS

Mr Damms, teacher in transition base, has sadly been absent from work for a few weeks but we hope that we will see him back in school in the new year.

Mrs Francis enjoyed her graduation day on 7th December following her MEd qualification proudly watched by Mr Francis.

Joanne Hall, mom to Jake in Year 10, sadly tendered her resignation as a parent governor from the school on 13.12.21. Joanne has been a valued member of the team and a big thank you for her support.

The Clerk to the Governors will organise for a parent election to take place early in the new year and we look forward to welcoming a new parent governor on board.

NEWS FROM OUT AND ABOUT

As in previous years we have been able to attend the German Market in Birmingham. Last year due to restrictions we were only able to visit Hollybush as one of our Christmas experiences in Out & About.

The pupils have enjoyed revisiting or indeed, visiting for the first time, as is the case for both the Yr 7s and Yr 8s. Many hotdogs, sweets, marshmallows, chips, caramelised peanuts have been consumed and several Xmas gifts purchased too. The market has been a little reduced from previous years, but this has helped with limiting the crowds and meant we have been able to park the minibuses. Great for the pupils' cultural capital to be back at the Market.

In addition to this we have also collected our Xmas trees from the farm. Pupils enjoyed seeing the animals too including donkeys, pigs and tiny piglets, the cows and this year a couple of over friendly sheep!

This has tied into the project in science lessons of 'Farm in a Box' and enabled us to see how farms adapt over time. An example being that Oakley's Farm now has the facility to buy unpasteurised milk from a dispensing machine! The pupils showed their virtues well in choosing a tree per form and then netting it and carrying it to and from the van. Report by Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning.

FOOTBALL MATCH REVIEW BY MR BULLOCK, PE TEACHER



On 9th December Elmwood's football team ventured over to Leicester in the hope of continuing their winning streak. Elmwood faced Millgate in the next fixture of the league and what a tough game it turned out to be.

The game kicked off and Millgate pressured from the whistle with countless attacks, something Elmwood were not prepared for. Two quick goals put Millgate ahead and Elmwood were left bewildered at the quality of the opposition. Re'shae Pearman managed to get a quick goal back to make it 2-1 but unfortunately this couldn't contain Millgate as they proceeded to put another four consecutive goals away past our goalkeeper. However, in usual Elmwood fashion they did not stop battling and managed to secure two more goals before half time taking it to 6-3.

As the second half kicked off there were relentless attacks from the opposition but Elmwood had become aware of their star players and Theo Forrester and Riley Higgs managed to contain their attacks and prevent more goals being scored. Re'shae Pearman was a star player battling in the middle of the field against opponents twice the size but this didn't phase him one bit. He constantly threw his body on the line to win challenges and create dangerous attacks. This led to three goals in the second half being scored by Swayvon O'Connor - a superb effort from the youngster who has definitely got an eye for hat tricks at the moment!

Unfortunately the opposition were too strong for us on the day and Elmwood struggled to keep the score line to a minimum. The game finished at 12-6 to Millgate but Elmwood were gracious in defeat and congratulated every player in the opposing team. The man of the match for this game went to Riley Higgs for his constant battling in midfield and being a core player for the squad! We face Kickstart in our next fixture in January so lets hope we can get back to our winning ways!

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



On Tuesday 14th December, all staff and pupils were able to once again join in a Christmas celebratory lunch. Once again Lynne in the kitchen, served up a delicious Turkey dinner or vegetarian fish pie with all the trimmings followed by a choice of puddings including home made Christmas pudding or mince pies made by Lynne.



Pupils who preferred to have their lunch in a quieter area were able to do so alongside Mr Cross (who looked very festive) and other staff.



Pupils were a credit to the school and behaved brilliantly throughout the extended lunch break; many enjoyed taking part in word searches and crosswords whilst waiting their turn. It was lovely to see so many nice festive tops on display including one double act. The voluntary donation to support a homeless charity helped to raise £13.80.



At the end of the meal Lynne was presented with a thank you gift from staff of a basket of flowers which was kindly done by Reece Oxford in Year 9b.

A big thank you to Julie Burnell, lunchtime assistant, who assisted Lynne in the kitchen, on the day and also to Hilary Shaw, food technology teacher (who also made some great Christmas table decorations) and Lynn Maritza, school business, finance and operations manager, for helping with organising the event.



Finally a big thank you to Paul Croke, site manager, who made sure that the tables, chairs and Christmas decorations were both put up and taken down again.

More photographs are on the school website, photo gallery page. Thank you to Rianna in Year 10 for taking many of these.