



# ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY 2022 – NO. 173

www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk

### CHRISTMAS GOODIES



As mentioned in the December newsletter, Help to Make Tummies Full did our parents/carers proud at Christmas providing 31 bags of gifts as well as 19 families also receiving food hampers. Thank you to the two parents who forwarded their thanks on receiving these, which we are able to share with Help to Make Tummies Full. One mom rang to say

she was extremely grateful for the kindness and asked for her thanks to be passed on to everyone and another emailed stating 'thank you for the food package and presents for the kids we really appreciate it'.



In addition six girls also received Christmas gifts from the SENDIASS team based at Manor Farm on 16.12.21 which they enjoyed opening in school.



A big thank you to both organisations for their ongoing support.

### READING RAFFLE

At the end of the school Christmas lunch on Tuesday 14th December 2021, the reading raffle prize draw for the autumn term 2 was drawn.

Many congratulations to Callum Rhys Dixon in Year 11b who was the lucky winner receiving a £10 Amazon gift voucher.

Commiserations to all other pupils but good luck for next time. Remember you have got to be in it to win it!

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

For information, A & J Designs, who provide our school uniform, have moved from Chasewater and are now based at the following address for any order collections made on line:

A & J Designs (Staffs) Ltd  
Apex Business Park  
Units 1  
Walsall Road,  
Cannock,  
Staffordshire WS11 9PU

### STAFF/GOVERNOR NEWS

Unfortunately Mr Damms, teacher in 10a, has been absent since the start of term; we send him our best wishes. A big thank you to Leon Donaldson, teaching assistant and staff governor, for his continued support and also to Kaodi Campbell, supply teacher, for her work with the group.



On Thursday 20th January, Tracy Jackson, teaching assistant in 9b, celebrated a special birthday. Tracy was presented with cards and gifts from staff to mark this occasion as well as banners/balloons giving away which number birthday it was.



Mr Holmes, teacher in 9a, will be absent for a few weeks following an injury he sustained to his knee whilst accompanying pupils to Wolf Mountain on 21.1.22. We wish Mr Holmes a very speedy recovery and send him our very best wishes. A big thank you to Wolf Mountain for their support during this incident and well done to all pupils for their excellent behaviour.

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Unfortunately our vacancy seeking a new parent to join our governing body did not yield any candidates. The views of parents and carers are important and they play a vital part of the team.

The clerk to the governors, Dawn Canham, will be sending out a further nomination form shortly and we hope that this is something you might consider. If there are more than one applicant, a confidential ballot will take place.

Please contact Dawn if you would like to find out more.

## UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is Mr Ashley Bullock, Teacher.

**How long have you worked at Elmwood?** I have worked at Elmwood for 4 years.

**What do you love about your job?** I love that everyday is different and I feel like I make an impact on our young peoples lives.

**What films have you watched recently?** I usually watch a film a day at home and the most recent ones are: Shutter Island, Goodfellas and Marley & Me but my most recent film I have seen in the cinema is Spiderman: No Way Home.

**Favourite Holiday?** My favourite holiday destination is probably Ibiza - it is one of those destinations where there is always something to do—whether you want to party or chill out, it has it all.

My favourite holiday though has to be the last trip I took to Cornwall with all my family and grandparents whilst they were still alive. We made great memories that I hold close to my heart.

**Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear?** I was a contestant on Ninja Warrior UK and made it to the semi-finals.



### ATTENDANCE STARS

The following pupils achieved 100% attendance for the autumn term, which is absolutely brilliant so very well done to:

Samuel Ashbery  
Mkenzie Gonderton  
Jake Hall  
Miles Hall  
Jack Hulse  
Rhys Humphries  
Joseph Jenkins  
Krystian Kastelik  
Libby Leach  
Rianna L  
Cody Love Knight  
Swayvon O'Connor  
Paul R  
Joshua Till

All of the above received a certificate and a £5 gift voucher in recognition of this achievement during an assembly on Friday 14th January 2022.

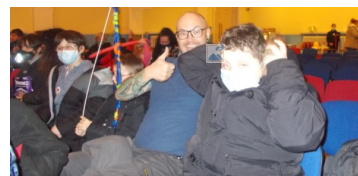
In addition the following staff are to be commended for also achieving 100% attendance and were also presented with a certificate:

Lee Cross  
Chris Bowen  
Brian Collins  
Hilary Shaw  
Charlotte Clarke  
Marcia Allen  
Kerry Bowen  
Grant Hunt  
Jo Hughes  
Adam Mitchell  
Carol Bratt

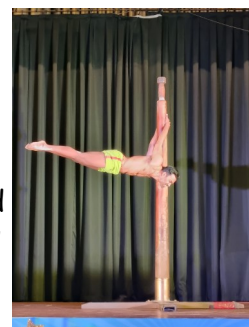
## CIRCUS VISIT—13.1.22



On Thursday 13th January 2022 a number of pupils in Years 7/8 had the opportunity to go along to see the latest show organised by Circus Starr. Pupils remained on site after school where they enjoyed a cooked meal ahead of heading off to Darlaston Town Hall.



A very big thank you to Mr Francis, Ms Pow, Shelli George and Kerry Bowen for giving up their free time to accompany the youngsters, who had an absolutely fantastic time. Thank you also to Ms Shaw and Hardeep Garcha for their help in preparing/cooking the meal ahead of the show and to Mrs Francis for purchasing the food. Finally a very big thank you to Circus Starr for once again giving our pupils this opportunity, this is very much appreciated. A copy of thank you letters sent by the pupils are available on the school website, Supporters page.



## GOLDEN TICKETS

Back in January 2020 Mr Cross introduced the above scheme whereby pupils are given a golden ticket from either a visitor or a weekly chosen member of staff, for following our Elmwood Way of showing care for self, others or the environment.

For the academic year 2020-2011 the overall winner was Miles Hall in Year 11b closely followed by Reece Oxford, Kevin Read, Wezley Bartin and Owen Perry.

## ELMWOOD WELCOMES 24 INITIAL TEACHER TRAINEES

Week commencing 17th January 2022, we were able to welcome 24 Initial Teacher Trainees from the Barr Beacon SCITT. It was great to be able to host this annual event (face to face) enabling fellow professionals at the start of their teaching journey to see the amazing work we all do with the pupils and their families regardless of the barriers and challenges. It was particularly rewarding to welcome back a fellow Elmwood pupil, Sam Taylor, who recognised the importance of us all in reaching his potential in becoming a teacher. It did make a few members of staff realise how long we had been at Elmwood (in a nice way of course). All 24 trainees spoke positively about their experience and valued the open and honest approach to what we do well and what the next steps are to become that 1% better. Here is a selection of the statements made by the



trainees during our "What Stuck with You" session:

- The honesty from pupils and staff when discussing behaviour expectations.
- Pupils take ownership of their learning journey.
- Pupils provided with structure to reflect.
- The curriculum builds resilience for all (regardless of starting points).
- Relaxed and purposeful learning environment which is child centred.
- Flexible approach to everything – it's not just about the outcome, it's about supporting the pupil through that journey.
- Pupils are open to acknowledge their emotions.
- The use of reflection rooms to self-regulate.
- Reading is well promoted and is challenging.
- Staff seem like a real team.
- Staff know their pupils really well – even the small details about what they ate last night.
- Able to problem solve with the child and not for the child.
- Pupils are surrounded by sensible and nice people.

Report by Mr Lee Cross, Headteacher

## HEADTEACHER AWARDS — 17.12.21



At the end of the autumn term I decided to launch a Headteacher Award (with a difference). Upon my observations/experiences across all the classes during the term, I was able to identify some stand out achievements of pupils living into the Elmwood Values and so I wanted to showcase this with a photo, sticker, assembly announcement and Marvellous Me for the lucky individuals. This will be a termly event and I wonder who will achieve the Headteacher Award for the spring term. There is still plenty of time for pupils to demonstrate the schools values – who will get the accolade of Mr Cross saying “Mr Cross thinks you’re ace!”

Well done to the following pupils who achieved this last term:

Pathways Base—Krystian, Theo, Josh, Jake, and Riley

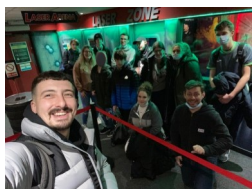
Transition Base—Jordan and Charlie-Ann

Nurture Base—Cole, Logan H, Ellis, Mckenzie and Josh

Report by Mr Cross, Headteacher



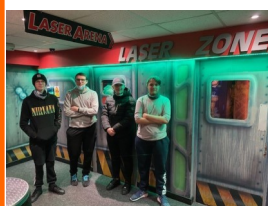
## AUTUMN TERM REWARD TRIPS—7.1.22



For the gold reward trip we headed off to take part in an escape room and laser tag. Pupils were locked into a peaky blinders themed escape room with two pupils even being locked in a jail; they had 60 minutes to find the clues and try to escape! However, even with the help of Charlotte Clarke, Teacher, the Year 10's/11's unfortunately couldn't escape in time. The Year 9's/10's attempt was much better as they found the secret room but unfortunately didn't have time to solve the last clue before the time elapsed and had to be rescued out of the room.



After this, pupils took part in laser tag, competing against each other in a free-for-all style competition and teamed events. As you can tell from the images all pupils had an amazing time and conducted themselves perfectly during the trip! Well done to all the students that achieved the gold reward trip! Report by Mr A Bullock, Teacher/Trip Lead



On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 30 pupils who had earned silver status for their hard work and behaviour during the previous term, were rewarded with a trip to JumpXtreme Trampoline Park in Tamworth. A brilliant day was had by all, with pupils having lots of fun including sole use of the main jump area with trampolines, bouncing dodgeball, diving into airbags and more. The morning's fun was finished with a buffet lunch of pizza, chips, sandwiches and drinks in the café before the return to school.



The pupils' showed why they were being treated with another show of excellent behaviour on the day and even a sing-song on the coach on the way back.

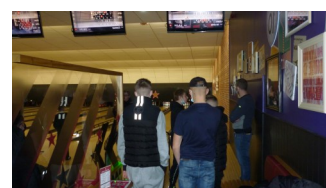
A big thank you to all the staff involved who made this such a safe, fun and enjoyable trip for the pupils; Lynn Maritza for booking the venue and transport, Mrs Francis for her organising and most importantly, to the staff who accompanied and looked after the pupils on the day! Report by Mr Holmes,



Teacher/Trip Lead.



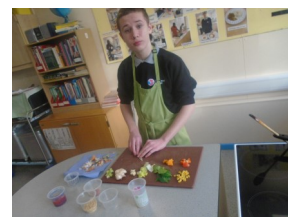
For this term's bronze trip we went bowling! Staff and students took over half of the bowling lanes at Hollywood Bowl to compete against each other to see who was the best bowler (the jury is still out on that one). We all had a fantastic time, the students were fantastic ambassadors for Elmwood school, all staff were very proud! Report by Mr Francis, Teacher/Trip Lead



## NEWS FROM FOOD TECHNOLOGY



This month pupils have been following Veganuary, which has not proved very popular with some pupils. During lessons pupils have been able to identify the difference between a vegan and vegetarian and we have introduced soya chunks and soya mince to replace protein meat products.



Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January was the Scottish celebration that is Burns Night. Pupils were busy discovering what haggis is and what it actually contains and then creating their own version of haggis, neeps and tatties.

Report by Ms Shaw, Food Technology Teacher.



## SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The school ambassadors met with Bev Bailey and James Hawkins on 16th December 2021 when three new members were welcomed, Reece Oxford from Yr 9, Carson Price from Yr 8 and Josh Evans from Yr 7.

Outstanding actions from their meeting on 21st October were discussed which included an assembly, the Covid 19 Risk Assessment, reset and recovery, emotion check ins, the transition quad and Brave accounts.

On the agenda for the latest meeting was did the school feel 'normal' following the disruption of Covid, study leave and school computers.

A further meeting took place on Monday 10th January with a single agenda item on the curriculum and whether pupils feel they are making progress—this also covered the Votes for Schools (theme lessons) and out and about. The meeting was attended by Mrs Francis, Assistant Headteacher who was able to feed back and will action any queries raised.

Once again the ambassadors were a credit to the school and conducted themselves brilliantly.

Both sets of minutes are available on the school website, Pupil Ambassadors page.

## **MESSAGE FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE — If it's not 999, do it online**

We're here for you 24/7 but the impact of COVID and the obvious need for us to prioritise 999 calls means that you'll be waiting slightly longer for us to answer your non-emergency 101 calls.

A faster way is to **If it's not 999, do it online** - [Home | West Midlands Police \(west-midlands.police.uk\)](https://www.west-midlands.police.uk) the site allows you to quickly do everything you'd ever need to call us about.



You can get advice, report crimes, ask for updates on your investigation, leave feedback and send us real time messages via Live Chat on the right of your screen.

You can even choose to get a copy of the conversation you've had with us to remind yourself of what we said.

Thank you for your support.

## COURSE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS/CARERS

A number of emotional health and wellbeing spring term courses are available for parents/carers of any children who feel they may need extra support from the school nursing service. The flyers advertising these various courses are on our school website, parents/carers courses and information page.

Fun FRIENDS Flyer -February 2022 Harden & virtual

FRIENDS for Life Primary Flyer – February 2022 Harden HC & Virtual

Flyer for Teen Triple P parenting – February 2022 Virtual

Flyer for SA parenting group – February 2022 Harden & Virtual

Flyer for Group Triple P Parenting – February 2022 Harden & Virtual

Flyer for Cygnet – February 2022 Harden & Virtual

Adult Resilience Flyer – March 2022 Harden & Virtual

Adult Resilience 16-19 years Flyer – March 2022 Virtual

## FOOTBALL REPORT—14.1.22



Friday 14th January saw Elmwood face their first home game of the season. With 2 wins and 1 loss already it was all to play for against a tough opposition.

Elmwood faced a strong team from Kickstart who were a much more physical side. From the whistle, Kickstart came out strong and applied pressure in Elmwood's half forcing mistakes from the home side. However, Elmwood's defence battled hard and managed to keep the ball out of the net.

As Elmwood found their feet and settled into the game, they started to create chances through fluid passing in the centre of the park which eventually led to Cameron Willetts being through on goal. He calmly managed to slip it past the goalkeeper and put Elmwood in front just before the end of the first half.

As the second half kicked off it was clear to see Kickstart were not going down without a fight. They were dangerous on the break and, after numerous chances, they managed to find the back of the net and level the score.

Elmwood made some key substitutions and the fresh legs enabled a change of pace within the game and Cameron Willetts found himself once again presented with a goal scoring opportunity where he fired the ball into the back of the net, 2-1 Elmwood. With Joshua Haycock pushing forward to seal the game, he left Elmwood's defence vulnerable and Kickstart managed to capitalise on this and a late counter attack led to the opposition equalising the score line 2-2.

It seemed like all hope was over for a win from the home side until the ball was fired up the pitch from Riley Higgs. The ball was mid air and Cameron Willetts managed to slip in front of the Kickstart's centre back and control the ball on his chest. As the ball fell he spun his body round and connected perfectly sending the ball soaring through the air and into the top corner leaving the goalkeeper and the rest of the players bewildered. Elmwood's players erupted and ran to celebrate their players superb goal to complete his hat-trick, 3-2.

The final whistle blew not long after and secured Elmwood's third win of the season. Both teams showed great sportsmanship throughout the game and also congratulated each other after the final whistle. Report by Mr Bullock PE Teacher