



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Elmwood Sports Day 2024—12.7.24

A day of achievements, medals and community spirit

This year's Sports Day was one for the books! Elmwood's field came alive with the energy, excitement and determination of our talented athletes and the unwavering support of our amazing spectators.

Events

The field events were nothing short of spectacular. The running events this year were packed with thrilling finishes and incredible displays of speed and endurance. The 100, 200 and 400-metre sprints were intense, with athletes pushing themselves to the limit and crossing the finish line in lightning fast times. The 800 and 1200 metre races showcased stamina and strategy as pupils paced themselves through each lap before delivering powerful final sprints. In the hurdles, agility and technique took centre stage, as competitors gracefully cleared each barrier with precision. The relay races, always a highlight of Sports Day, brought an exciting team dynamic to the track, with seamless baton passes and nail-biting finishes that had the crowd roaring with excitement. Each event was a true testament to the hard work and dedication of our runners!

In the throwing events, pupils displayed incredible strength and technique. The discus and shot-put events had the crowd in awe as they watched athletes launch their throws with precision and power. The jumping events were equally thrilling, with athletes soaring through the air in the long jump and reaching new heights in the high jump. There were several close finishes, keeping the crowd on the edge of their seats, but ultimately, every jump was a testament to the athletes dedication and focus.

Medals & NEW records!

Gold, silver, and bronze medals were awarded across all events, with many pupils proudly stepping up to the podium for the very first time. For some, it was a moment of personal triumph, and for others, it was a shared victory with friends and classmates. Regardless of the outcome, every athlete should be immensely proud of their efforts. Many competitors set new records for the school, and the spectators erupted in applause with every successful throw. Riley Cabrera 'hurdles', Sennen Gregory 'hammer throw' and Cody Love-Knight '1200m' broke the current Elmwood records, setting a new bar for next year's competitors, a huge well done to you all. The overall champions however for this year were team Murray, well done to all on a brilliant result.



Community Spirit Shines Bright

Sports Day 2024 wasn't just about athletic excellence; it was about the community spirit that brings us together. Family members, carers and friends came out in full force to cheer on their loved ones, creating an atmosphere of support and encouragement. It was a day of celebration for all the hard work our students have put in throughout the year! Each event saw fierce yet friendly competition, as pupils pushed themselves to new personal bests and cheered on their peers in true sportsmanship fashion.

A Heartfelt Thank You

We want to extend a huge thank you to all the athletes who participated in this year's Sports Day, giving their all and making the event such a success. Your enthusiasm, perseverance and sportsmanship were a joy to witness. To all the family members, carers, and spectators who came out to support, your presence made the day even more memorable, and we are grateful for the continued encouragement you provide to our pupils. Not forgetting our resident score keeper Mrs Francis, for time keeping, record taking staff and most importantly the tea ladies keeping everyone hydrated and energised (bellies full).



A very big thank you also to Waj from NA Cars who transports a number of our pupils who kindly provided free ice creams for both pupils and staff – what a lovely gesture and very much appreciated.

As we reflect on another successful Sports Day, it's clear that it's more than just an athletic event—it's a celebration of the spirit and community that defines our school. Here's to another fantastic year of achievements and we're already looking forward to what next year will bring!

Congratulations to all and see you again in 2025!

GO ELMWOOD

Report by Miss Diponio, PE Teacher

REWARD TRIPS

Gold trip to Drayton Manor Park

Our visit to Drayton Manor was an unforgettable experience that provided us with more than just thrilling rides that had us gripping in our seats as we twisted and turned through its intense inversions. Drayton Manor is packed with thrilling rides that promises an adrenaline rush for everyone. From the heart-pounding Shockwave, Thor Spinning in a giant wheel (Europe's only stand-up roller coaster), to the dizzying heights of Maelstrom, where you spin 360 degrees whilst swinging high into the sky. For those who love a splash, the newly opened River Rapids offers a refreshing adventure through the vibrant Adventure Cove. Thomas Land is a magical experience for all ages with gentle rides. It was an opportunity to build stronger friendships, face our fears, and celebrate our unique strengths. The excitement of the roller coasters, and the joy of exploring the park together, helped us develop resilience and confidence and to build new friendships. We learned the importance of supporting each other and discovered new ways to manage our emotions in a positive environment. Drayton Manor not only gave us memories to cherish but also valuable lessons that will help us in our everyday lives. We look forward to more adventures that continue to help us grow and thrive and face any of our fears. Report by Stacey Urmson, Teaching Assistant



Silver reward trip to JumpXtreme

Pupils on the silver reward trip enjoyed a well-deserved enriching day jumping for joy at JumpXtreme. Being the largest reward trip we were escorted to our venue in Tamworth by an extremely comfortable coach. Many pupils have experienced trampolining at JumpXtreme before and were still enthusiastic about going. After an initial rundown on health and safety by the professionals pupils were all set to jump! Everyone had free reign on all the trampolines and we were lucky not to have to share the venue with anyone. Pupils were spoilt for choice at what to go on next, not only could you just jump up and down on the wall to wall trampolines you could also play dodgeball, do slam dunks and this really, really tested their agility. We finished off by eating a lovely buffet that Jump Xtreme provided for us—pizza, chicken nuggets, sandwiches and chips which were quickly eaten along with all the squash you could drink! Another brilliant day at Jump Xtreme. Pupils and staff were a credit to the school displaying all the Elmwood values: care for self, care for others and care for the environment. Thank you once again to all staff that made this another memorable reward trip! Report by Mr Webb, Trip Lead

Bronze Reward Trip to Pipehill Fishing Lake

The day started slowly with not much being caught. However, as the day warmed up, better fish showed up and the children were excited to see a few nice carp in the net. The children were resilient and a credit to our school. Report by Mr Wood, Trip Lead



Bronze Reward Trip—Gaming

On Friday 6th September, Elmwood pupils kicked off our reward trips with a thrilling computer gaming event. Pupils dived into gaming on multiple platforms including PlayStation, Xbox, Nintendo Switch, and PC. Although we encountered some initial technical challenges, pupils soon demonstrated their remarkable gaming talents, impressing staff with their skills in various games. The excitement was intense with many pupils sharing their happiness about the experience. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the staff who contributed to this activity; it was a wonderful time that highlighted the Elmwood ethos of teamwork and enjoyment. Report by Leon Donaldson, Teaching Assistant

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month our featured member of staff under the spotlight is our caretaker, Marvarick Perry.

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

What do you love about your job? *The fact that I can affect things in a positive way by fixing, amending issues that may disturb the day to day activities carried out by all teachers and pupils.*

What films have you watched recently? *Pirates of the Caribbean.*

Favourite Holiday? *Easter holiday.*

Tell us something that people would be surprised to hear? *That I represent my country of birth (Jamaica) at cricket at professional level and play semi professional here for Stourbridge CC and minor county, Herefordshire.*



PUPIL UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Our pupil under the spotlight this month is Francis Gosling in Year 11a so a big thank you to Francis for his responses:

What do you like most about coming to Elmwood School? *My friends are here.*

Have you any thoughts about what you might like to do after leaving Elmwood? *Learn about robots.*

In your spare time, what do you most like to do? *Listening to music and day dreaming.*

Have you done anything that we might be surprised to learn about? *I went to Spain recently with my grandparents.*

If you could go anywhere or do anything, what would you choose? *I would go to space and explore.*

STAFFING NEWS

We will sadly be saying goodbye to Hardeep Garcha, teaching assistant, at the end of September. Hardeep has worked at the school for over 8 years, initially joining the school on supply. Hardeep has forged great relationships with both staff and pupils during this time and will be missed. Hardeep is busy planning her upcoming wedding in early November and will then be heading off travelling. Good luck Hardeep and have a fabulous time.

Alan Price, science teacher, is getting on his bike again when he plans to ride to Aberystwyth on 5th October in order to raise money for the Severn Hospice. We wish Alan all the best in his latest fundraising event and hopefully he will raise lots of money for this good cause.

GOLDEN TICKET WINNERS

As part of our visitor welcoming process, a copy of our school values and a golden ticket are issued to visitors.

Visitors are encouraged to award the golden ticket to any pupil who has demonstrated any of these values, which in turn pupils are able to hand into the office for a sweet reward. A record of these achievements is kept which shows that a total of 131 tickets were given out during the last academic year.

Many congratulations to Bradley Hopkins in Year 10, Jack Poxon in Year 11 and Ryan Keenan in Year 9 who all received 7 tickets and topped the leader board. All pupils will be accompanying Mr Cross, Headteacher, to a local restaurant for a tasty lunch over the coming weeks.
Very well done to all and enjoy your meal.

ATTENDANCE SUPERSTARS

Very well done to the following pupils who achieved 100% attendance for the summer term and received a £5 gift voucher and certificate during the assembly held on 13th September 2024.

Francis Gosling, George Hancox, Maisie Jevons, Dylan Paddock, Alfie Perry, Harry Pickford, Lily-Mae Prescott, Carson Price, Joshua Till, Preston Ward and Oscar Worley

Many congratulations to the following three pupils who managed to come into school every day for the whole academic year, what an achievement. All pupils received an additional £5 gift voucher.

Francis Gosling, George Hancox and Dylan Paddock

The following staff were also very healthy and achieved 100% attendance for the summer term and were presented with certificates. Very well done to:

Dan Whittaker, Chris Bowen, James Francis, Matt Webb, Laura Askins, Marcia Allen, Kerry Bowen, Grant Hunt, Mark Trahearn, Leon Donaldson, Adam Mitchell, Sunita Lalli, Frankie Smith, Beverley Bailey and Caroline Bratt

Exciting News: Launch of Our New Morning Fitness Club – **AM ACTIVE**

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new morning fitness club - **AM ACTIVE** designed to help pupils stay active, energised and connected. The club is open to all year groups and offers a great opportunity to start the day with a burst of physical activity and fun alongside friends. The morning fitness club is not just about getting fit; it's about building healthy habits, staying motivated, and socialising with fellow pupils.

Loyalty Cards and Rewards!

To make things even more exciting, every pupil who joins will receive a **loyalty card**! Each time you attend a session, Miss Diponio (PE Teacher) will stamp your card. If you collect all 10 stamps by the end of the term, you'll be rewarded with an exclusive **AM ACTIVE Athletes Breakfast**—a fun and healthy way to celebrate your commitment and hard work. Not only will you benefit from staying active but you'll also have something to work toward! To keep things exciting, and cater to every pupils interest, **the sports and activities will change every term**. This means one term you might be playing football or basketball, whilst the next could involve yoga, dance or circuit training! There's something for everyone, regardless of fitness level or experience, so no one will feel left out.

We encourage all pupils to take advantage of this opportunity and kick-start their mornings with some movement and motivation. Let's get active, stay healthy, and work toward that end-of-term breakfast together! See you bright and early!

SIGN-UP NOW !! and become an AM Athlete

Report by Miss Diponio, PE Teacher

New arrivals



They have finally arrived! After lots of discussion with Aidan Garbett's mum over the summer holidays, we are pleased to welcome three cockerels to our Elmwood family.



The birds are stunning Sablepoot bantam's and have attracted lots of attention from the pupils in Year 9.

A selection of pupils have taken to the responsibility to attend training with Mr Cross on how to handle the birds safely, as well as getting lots of cuddles from the birds.

Marvarick, (our school caretaker), says it reminds him of his childhood in Jamaica when they cock-a-doodle-do in the mornings. Report by Mr Cross, Headteacher

Well done to our Year 11 leavers

A massive well done to our Year 11 (2024 leavers) who secured their GCSE's over the summer. This year's cohort overcame many "inner voices" and periods of self doubt to achieve a fantastic set of results (that they should be extremely proud of).

With these results pupils have been able to continue their journey into education or training, continuing the school's success in effectively preparing pupils for adulthood. This year also became our 10th year of continued and sustained examination improvement setting further aspirations for the Year 11's of the future!

We look forward to welcoming our Year 11 (2024 leavers) back into school to hear about the positives of their journey. Please check out our school "Hall of Fame" in main reception to share in our successes as a school community. Report by Mr Cross, Headteacher

YEAR 11 PARENTS AND CARERS COFFEE MORNING

There will be a coffee morning taking place on Thursday 24th October from 10 am to 11 am when Sarbjit Kaur, who is an educational mental health practitioner (Walsall Reflexions), and is part of the CAMHS team, will be in attendance. **The coffee morning is specific to parents of year 11 pupils (managing exam stress).**

The next event will take place on Thursday 12th December from 10 am to 11 am with the topic being supporting your child with transition.

Reflexions will then do some work with the pupils to support mental health.

We look forward to hopefully seeing you at these events.

PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT EVENT

A big thank you to the parents and carers who came along to our progress and achievement event on Wednesday 10th July. Over 90% of parents and carers were able to enjoy a coffee and meet with their child's form staff when their child's summer term report was discussed and any concerns raised.

Our autumn term event will be taking place on Wednesday 4th December 2024.