



## ELMWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

### NEWSLETTER – JULY 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our Year 6 pupils leave today having achieved very well in the SATs tests taken in May. We are very proud of all their achievements and know that they have had a great final year. They leave us with fantastic memories and an amazing performance of ‘Bugsy Malone!’ which I know you all enjoyed.

Well done Year 6 and we wish you well for secondary school.

#### End of Year Reports

You will have received your child’s end of year report and I am pleased that the majority of children have made very good progress. From reading their comments, it is very clear to see how much they have enjoyed the school year, the educational visits, achieving their personal targets and all the after school clubs.

I am sure you will join me in thanking the staff for all their hard work throughout the year, in particular for organising all the extra-curricular activities which the children have enjoyed so much.

#### Staff

##### *Teaching Staff*

Sadly, we say goodbye to the following teaching staff who leave today:

Miss Fiona McManus  
Miss Gabriella Power  
Miss Sabrena Issace  
Mr Paul Flood

I would like to thank these teachers for their hard work and commitment to the school and wish them all the very best for the future.

##### *Learning Support Staff*

We say ‘Goodbye’ to our team of ‘Graduate Support Staff’ who have worked with us this year. They have been a tremendous asset to the teaching team and have worked extremely hard in supporting children’s learning, improving behaviour and running a wide range of extra-curricular activities both before and after school.

The majority of them will be embarking on a PGCE/Schools Direct/Teach First course this September, leading to them gaining qualified teacher status.

Our thanks and best wishes for the future go with them.

### ***New Appointments***

The following staff will join the teaching team in September:

- Miss Shannen Jansz
- Miss Brielle Spicer
- Miss Gloria Feruzi
- Mr Luis Moreira
- Mr Raphael Sarker

### **STEM Week**

The week beginning Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May was this year’s school-wide Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) week. The theme of this year was team work and problem solving which centred on developing and enhancing children’s skills in STEM. Children participated in a whole school ‘Escape Room’ where they worked with their buddy class to identify a code to unlock an iPad by solving a series of Maths/non-verbal reasoning puzzles.

Additionally, each year group worked through a STEM activity pack throughout the week and used computing skills with BeeBots, or on the app ‘LightBot’. Pupils were challenged to work as a team to create a tower out of newspaper. On the final day of the week, children attended a STEM quiz with questions related to Science, Computing, Maths and Design Technology.

### **Walk to School Week**

During the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> May, it was also ‘Walk to School Week’. This had been set up by the charity ‘Living Streets’ to mark their 90th anniversary. Pupils were asked to complete classroom packs and activities to ensure they felt empowered to change their walking environment for the better and to experience first-hand the importance of walking to school.



## Soccer Aid Playground Challenge

At Elmwood Junior School, we keep children's rights at the heart of what we do because we are a 'Silver: Rights Aware' Rights Respecting School. Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates that every child has the right to play and we raised funds to help all children access this and other rights in the Convention.

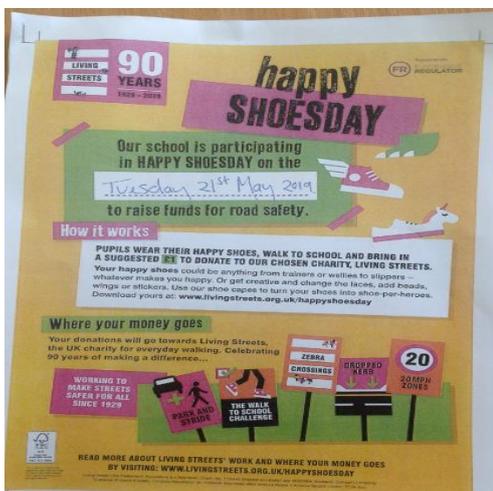
**Soccer Aid Playground Challenge** is a brilliant way for children to have fun while raising money to help children around the world access their rights and our pupils joined thousands of children in school playgrounds across the UK to raise funds.

During the challenge, pupils were invited to kick, bounce or carry a ball around an obstacle course that they designed with the support of our PE Co-ordinator. The challenge took place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June. Pupils were asked to donate £1 and the UK government pledged to double every £1 raised, to the value of £5 million. The school raised £170 and since 2006, Soccer Aid has raised £24,669,492 to help children grow up happy, healthy and safe.

Well done to the children and thank you to all parents/carers for your support.

## Happy Shoesday

During 'Walk to School Week', on Tuesday 21st May, pupils took part in 'Happy Shoesday' where they paid £1 to wear shoes of their choice to school - including slippers! The money raised will go towards promoting road safety and reducing air pollution. All of the children thoroughly enjoyed wearing their own shoes and raising money for the 'Living Streets' charity.



## The Mile Challenge

The Mile Challenge has fully taken off at Elmwood Junior School with each child walking, jogging or running a mile course around the school grounds at least once a week. This is in addition to the 2 hours of PE each week, lunchtime activities and after-school clubs and it is fantastic to see the children exercising so often and enjoying it.

## Culture Day

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June Elmwood Junior School held its third 'Culture Day' (this event is held on alternate years). This was a day where we celebrated the wide variety of cultures which we are very fortunate to have in our school. Pupils were invited to wear clothing which is traditional to their culture or clothing which reflects the colours of a national flag.

The structure of the day for each class was determined by the pupils' input. Class teachers invited pupils to perform, teach or demonstrate an aspect of their culture. These aspects included: dancing, singing, playing traditional instruments, speaking a foreign language, traditional stories and games. Our school is also very fortunate to have staff from a variety of backgrounds - they also gave presentations to the classes. Parents were also invited to come into school to give presentations, on any of the aspects above, to the pupils.

School dinner on this day also continued the theme of 'Culture' and reflected as many cultures as the school kitchen could squeeze in! The day was a huge success and was thoroughly enjoyed by pupils, staff and parents. Our thanks go to those parents/carers who joined us on this day.

### **Trinity Galactic Challenge**

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June eight Year 5 pupils attended Trinity School to take part in the 'Trinity Galactic Challenge'. This event challenged the pupils to work as part of a team in an imaginative and creative way. The challenge was based on developing designs for a Space Station or Space Settlement of the future, pupils presented their ideas to a panel of judges.

Many schools attended and the teams were in competition with each other to create the best project. Parents were invited to watch their children present their ideas and there was an award ceremony to celebrate the day at the end. All children and staff involved enjoyed the day immensely.

### **Soundstart Concert**

Over the course of the year, children in Year 4 have had the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, with specialist teachers from 'Croydon Music and Arts'. The children had the opportunity to choose from a wide range of instruments including strings (violin or cello), wind (trombone, trumpet or clarinet), ukulele or recorder. Every Tuesday since September they have had an hour long lesson and on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July the children were able to show off their musical talents by performing at a concert for their parents/carers and children in Year 3. It was a wonderful occasion and we hope many children will want to continue with peripatetic lessons next year.

### **Wiggly Wild Show**

The 'Wiggly Wild Bug Show' was a great success, with the whole school able to participate in an interactive presentation. Children were selected to come up and to touch and hold some of the mini beasts.

Throughout the day each class from Year 4 had the opportunity to participate in a closer study of the creatures. Pupils were then able to experience a hands on interactive 'Food Chain' workshop where they were able to look and carefully hold various herbivores. This fantastic workshop really engaged the children, who asked very sensible questions about the animals.

Through children's prior learning they were able to identify the different types of animals, such as vertebrates and invertebrates. There was an excellent range of animals to handle and learn about, ranging from a snake, bearded dragon and cockroach to a newt.

The classes then applied their knowledge and understanding from studying their 'Animals Including Humans' topic by seeing the animals eat within their natural environment. Pupils were able to predict which animal would eat which, whilst discussing producers, consumers and predators. During the workshop children listened carefully to the fantastic information about the animals and discussed how they survive in their natural habitat.

## **Talkbus**

The Croydon Drop In 'Talkbus' came to our school on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June. The 'Talkbus' service provides information, advice and guidance to young people. Year 6 pupils attended the Talkbus in groups of 12 for sessions linked to transition. Pupils were also given leaflets advising them of where they can attend the bus locally for more help or advice, following their transition to secondary school.



## **Summer Reading Challenge**

The 'Summer Reading Challenge' celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. The Reading Agency, together with libraries, launched the challenge because children's reading can 'dip' during the long summer holidays if they don't have regular access to books and encouragement to read for pleasure. The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children, aged 4 to 11, to read six library books during their summer holiday. Children can read whatever they like - fiction, fact books, joke books, picture books, or audio books - just as long as they are borrowed from the library. It helps get three quarters of a million children into libraries each year to keep up their reading skills and helps boost their confidence.

Children receive special rewards each time they finish a book and there's a certificate for everyone who completes the challenge.

There is a different theme each year and the Summer Reading Challenge 2019 theme is 'Space Chase', an out-of-this-world adventure inspired by the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing. Children taking part will join the super space family, 'The Rockets', for a thrilling mission to track down books nabbed by mischievous aliens! Space Chase will feature bespoke artwork from top children's illustrator, Adam Stower, and will celebrate adventure, exploration, reading and fun!

The challenge is open to all primary school children and caters for all reading abilities. Schools work with local libraries and give out information to encourage children to take part. The challenge launched in libraries in England and Wales on Saturday 13 July 2019.

We were fortunate to have Susan Cowley from Sanderstead Library visit on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 to address all pupils at a whole school assembly. She talked about the books that pupils can borrow to participate in the Summer Reading Challenge. She also made pupils aware of the many summer holiday activities that the libraries in Croydon organise for children.

## **School Sports Day**

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July, Elmwood Junior School held their annual sports day events. On Thursday, it was Years 3 and 4's turn to impress, watched by their families and teachers. They competed in

a range of activities including sprint, relay and obstacle races. As well as being determined and giving their best, all the children showed outstanding support for their teammates, as they always do.

It was Year 5 and 6's turn on the Friday and the upper school demonstrated the importance of sporting values at Elmwood, with the day reflecting the children's honesty, respect and fair play within PE. The children were very excited to participate and compete and our thanks go to the JC Academy coaches for planning and leading the activities. We were pleased to see many parents/carers supporting the event.

### **Personal Property**

Please can you ensure that all items of your child's uniform, including coats, PE and swimming kits are named for September. Each term we are left with a large number of items which, as they are not named, have to be disposed of.

### **Parent Pay**

Please make sure you clear any outstanding balances on your account for the end of the school year and top up for September if your child will be having school lunches in the new term. Please note we will **not** be taking any cash for lunches from September. If you need a re-print of your account letter, please contact the Office in the first week of term.

### **Classes and Teachers 2019/20**

Classes and teachers for next year are detailed below. All parents/carers will have the opportunity to discuss their child with the new teachers at consultation meetings arranged next term.

Classes and teachers for next year:-

Owls	→	3H	Mrs Henfrey (year leader)
Ducks	→	3S	Miss Spicer
Penguins	→	3V	Miss Van Zyl
Macaws	→	3J	Miss Jansz

3H	→	4O	Mr Ozgu (year leader)
3S	→	4L	Miss List
3A	→	4S	Miss Sleight
3V	→	4F	Miss Feruzi

Year Leader Mrs Devecioglu

4L	→	5S	Mrs Sebire
4O	→	5T	Mrs Swan-Thompson
4P	→	5H	Mr Mayes
4G	→	5M	Mr Moreira

Year Leader Mr Beck

5S	→	6W	Mrs Whittick
5F	→	6D	Miss DiMichelle
5H	→	6P	Mr Parkhouse
5I	→	6S	Mr Sarker

We have had a very busy term and the children have enjoyed a wide number of activities and educational visits. Please look at our website where many of these events are shown. The website is regularly updated to ensure we keep you all informed.

Finally, I would like to say a very big 'thank you' to parents/carers who have helped during the year in many different ways but most of all, for supporting your child's learning. It is very rewarding to see the progress

all children have made throughout the year and the many activities and visits which have contributed to the children's overall enjoyment of school.

I value the support of all our parents/carers, staff and governors as we continue to work in true partnership, always keeping the needs and best interests of the children at the heart of everything we do.

School Closes today Friday 19th July and reopens on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

I wish you all a very happy holiday and look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Read  
**Head Teacher**

### **Summer Term 2019**

Closes (last day for children)	Friday, 19 July
<i>Closed to Children</i>	<i>Monday, 22 July &amp; Tuesday, 23 July – Teacher Training Days</i>

### **Autumn Term 2019**

<i>Closed to Children</i>	<i>Tuesday, 3 September – Teacher Training Day</i>
Open to children	Wednesday, 4 September
<i>Half Term (school closed)</i>	<i>Monday, 21 October to Friday, 25 October</i>
<i>Closed to Children</i>	<i>Monday, 28 October Teacher Training Day</i>
Open to children	Tuesday, 29 October
Closes (last day for children)	Friday, 20 December

### **Spring Term 2020**

Open to children	Monday, 6 January
<i>Half Term (school closed)</i>	<i>Monday, 17 February to Friday, 21 February</i>
Open to children	Monday, 24 February
Closes (last day for children)	Friday, 3 April