



ELMWOOD JUNIORS NEWSLETTER

Dec 2022



Winter Message

Dear Parents and Carers

There is no greater value in life than showing compassion towards those in need, and especially at this time of year. This year compassion is needed even more than ever with so many challenges facing the world today. With this in mind, I am very pleased to share two projects here at Elmwood where the children and parents have had an opportunity to show compassion. Firstly to support our special charity of the year—The Pakistan Flood Appeal. Our first event to support this tragedy was last Friday's Christmas Jumper appeal. So far we have raised over £250. We hope to raise much more during the year with further events designed by the children.

Secondly, I am very pleased to announce the formation of our first Friends of Elmwood organised charity event aimed at supporting those in need within our own community with the setting up and running of an Elmwood warm clothes and uniform shop. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the parents who donated or gave their time to run this event. A powerful lesson of compassion to our children is if we ourselves demonstrate this through donations or providing time to help run and support these events.

We have also been celebrating the Qatar World Cup here at Elmwood. This Friday we will be running the World Cup Quiz Finals and a Keepie Uppie Challenge. As I write this I can hear the incredible voices of our fantastic Year 3 Christmas production running through their dress rehearsal—it sounds brilliant! Once again we have had a busy and inspiring half term. In this Newsletter you will get a glimpse of all the fantastic events and learning going on inside Elmwood Juniors this half term.

I am sure you would like to join me in thanking all the Elmwood Staff for all their hard work and dedication this term. I wish you all a fantastic, warm and restful Christmas Holidays.

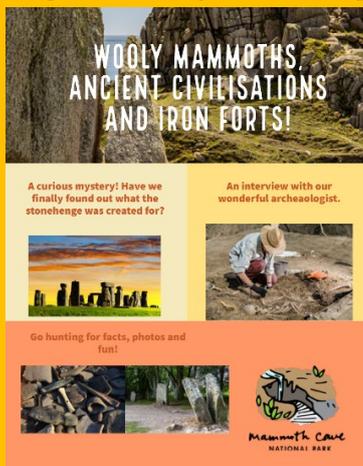
Kind regards
Mr Marston

Year 3

As the entry point for this half term's theme "Myths and Legends", Year 3 entered their classroom one afternoon only to find a giant stone with a sword in it. We told them the story of 'The Sword in the Stone' and discussed what a myth and a legend was. They then attempted to pull the sword from the stone. One person in each class was able to pull it out and they became 'king' or 'queen' for the day. After that, they used Google earth to explore and listen to various myths and legends around the World.



In computing, we have been learning about creating media. We explored what desktop publishing was and learnt about how it could be used in real life. Throughout the term, we worked on planning, editing and finally evaluating our final product - a historical magazine cover.



We have really enjoyed our art lessons this term. We learnt about a famous artist called Cicelly Mary Barker who is from West Croydon. We explored many of her artwork and then created our own drawing and collage in the style of Cicelly Mary Barker.



We also spent the last few weeks of our term rehearsing for our nativity play which the children thoroughly enjoyed. This allowed many of our children to become more confident, better communicators and to develop their teamwork skills.



MIP roll call for October!

The Most Improved Person Award (MIP) - based on a special award handed out every year in the US NBA Basketball series. This half terms MIP's, awarded for their overall attitude and approach to school life are;

A huge well done to all these children for showing you can improve if you really focus and try your very best to improve yourself.

MIP Hall of Fame - December 2022

Who is your Most Improved Person - This term?

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| 3S | 3B | 3C | 3M |
| Aleida | Maya | Flourish | Matthew |
| 4C | 4B | 4R | 4K |
| Jesmina | Qamar | Adea | Arshanni |
| 5F | 5S | 5FST | 5J |
| Aleeza | Imran | Ousmane | Asma |
| 6H | 6P | 6W | 6S |
| Rohit | Child C | Malachi B | Mason |

Year 4

As the entry point for this half term's theme, Year 4 were introduced to their new text, 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' through an interactive and multi-sensory recreation of Narnia. Although all children were eventually permitted into the room, only some were taken to begin with. This became the basis for the overarching theme 'Compassion vs. Cruelty' and allowed for a heated and interesting discussion of fairness, understanding and empathy!



Before bonfire night, Year 4 were lucky enough to have been visited by a parent who works for the London Fire Brigade. The pupils were given an informative and insightful presentation about the daily roles and responsibilities of being a Fire-Fighter as well as some vital fire safety tips. We were extremely thankful that the parent gave up their time to come and see us and the children were very enthusiastic, coming up with a wide range of challenging questions!



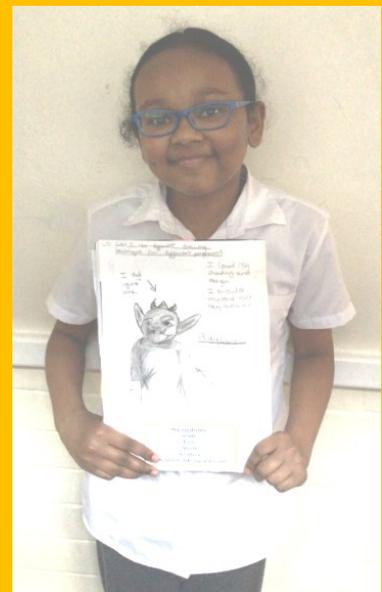
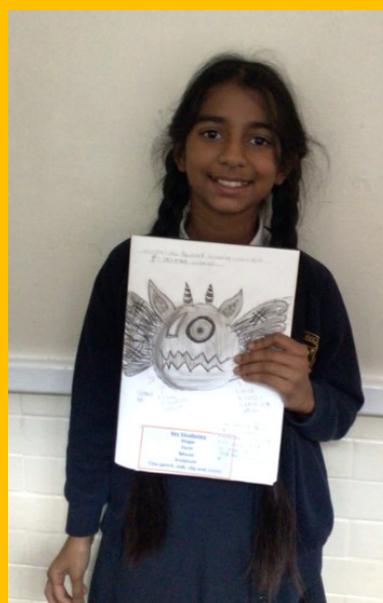
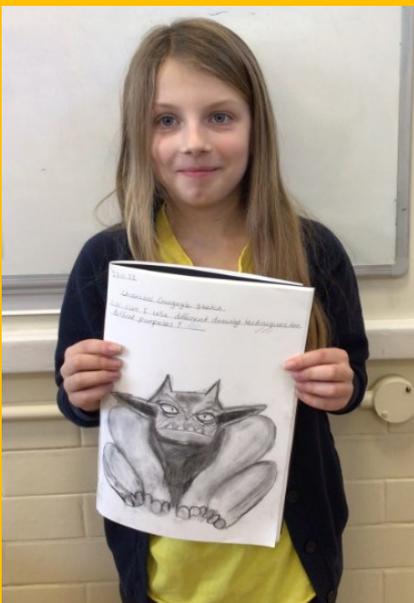
Year 5

Our theme this half term in Year 5 has been legend and tales. In English we have been reading one of the most famous Anglo-Saxon legends - Beowulf, and a more modern tale called The Island. The Island is a story about a mysterious man who gets washed upon an unknown Island. But, on this Island, they have never had a visitor before. They don't know what to do with him, he doesn't look like them, he doesn't sound like them, and he certainly doesn't act like them. Will the Islanders let him stay? Or send him away?



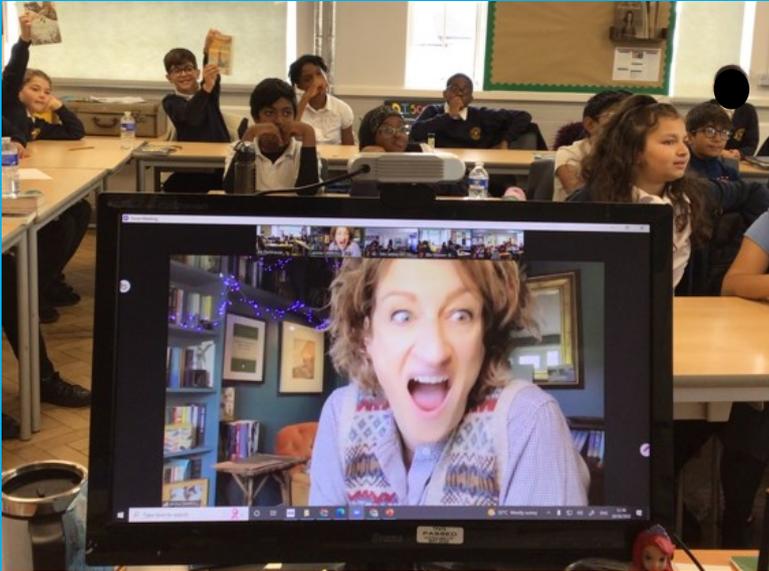
We have had a lot of fun in our art lessons this half term, and have been learning all about Gargoyles! You often see them on old Gothic buildings such as churches and cathedrals. Gargoyles got their name from an old French legend called Gargouille, a creature with bat-like wings who was able to breathe fire.

First we had a go at drawing Gargoyles with charcoal looking at shading, value and tone. Then we had a go at creating our own 3D Gargoyles out of clay.



Year 6

Throughout this term, we have been reading 'Letters from the Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll. Year 6 were fortunate enough to have a Zoom meeting with Emma herself, where she explained her inspiration for writing the book as well as her journey from being a teacher to becoming a best-selling author.



In Science, we have been looking at 'Animals including humans' and particularly focused on the circulatory system. Our lessons have culminated in the creation of these double page spreads in their topic books. This is work created by the children compiling all the information they have learned throughout the topic. We even made our own blood.

THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM

Have you ever thought what happens in the body? Did you know there are 4 chambers in the heart or even on the left of the heart? All this information is so to be in one. Read on!

Heart

The heart is the most special muscle in the body. The heart gets the diseases of smoking, genetics, or obesity, the heart may die. On the top of the heart is the left atrium/right atrium and left/right ventricle. These send the blood away and back.

Guida

Guida will guide you to a healthy life. Fruits and vegetables come from your plants. These include: onions and cabbage. Nuts are also good. These include: bread, rice, and rice. Fat lots. Then comes proteins. They have: fish, mince, etc. Dairy items include: Milk and yoghurt. Oil is needed less as fat. Fat food includes: in cream and chocolate.

Did you know?

There are more plasma than red blood cells. Plasma is 55% of the blood. Red blood cells are 45%.

The Red Blood Cells

The journey of a red blood cell is hard-working. Red blood cells go from one side to another side to blood. It starts from the lungs for oxygen. It goes around your body parts, delivering oxygen and blood. The haemoglobin carries oxygen while the red blood cells carry both.

White Blood cells

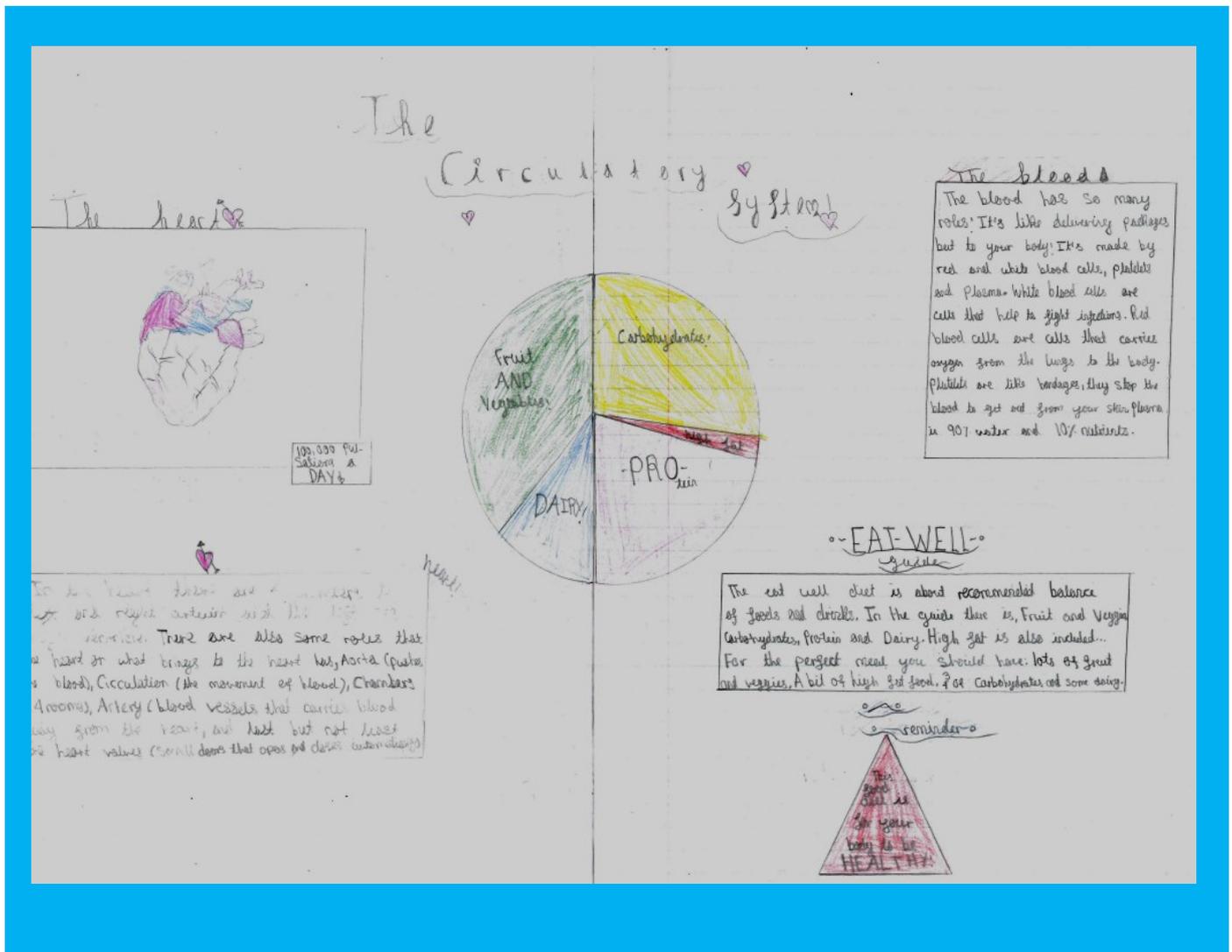
White blood cells are our warriors. There are 1% of them in the body. They fight viruses while you rest.

Platelets

When blood starts draining out from the human body parts, platelets are useful. There are 1% of platelets in your body since it's rare to get injured. Platelets stick the body back so you don't lose blood.

Plasma

Plasma is basically 90% water and the rest are body parts. Plasma carries all other parts in the body (white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets). It also contains antibodies, immunoglobins.



Parent e-safety reminder

Please remember to take some time over Christmas to regularly check your child's internet usage. Children should not be posting photographs or videos online as they can be vulnerable to paedophiles. Take time to have an honest conversation about their use of phones or gaming online. We all need to be extra vigilant and you often have no idea who your child could be talking to online.

Here are some suggestions;

1. Always check your child's history usage
2. Make sure your internet at home has safe family restrictions enabled so your child doesn't have access to inappropriate content
3. Agree a time length for using the internet on a daily basis
4. Children can get addicted to using devices during the holidays—it can make them really struggle to learn and concentrate when they return to school.

Throughout this half term, Year 6 have been given the opportunity to visit London as a reward for their hard work during their time at Elmwood Junior School. We visited Shrek's Adventure, had lunch at Pizza Hut and the trip culminated in a matinee performance of 'The Lion King' on the West End. The children loved it and were definitely inspired. This is great as our end of year production is going to be 'The Lion King'.



On 23rd November, Year 6 were visited by 'The Drama Geezers'. This duo were a part of our book week last year and we really wanted them back. They worked with Year 6 on creating an TV advert/plea based on an issue voted for by each group. As part of the Activism and Enterprise theme, we had adverts on: calling Childline, racism in football, protecting our animals and feeding the homeless.



On November 30th, Year 6, as part of their Activism and Enterprise theme, went on a protest march, showcasing their Protest Art placards inspired by the artist Bob and Roberta Smith. Issues such as gender equality, racism in sport, teaching arts in school and environmental issues were all protested for. We even interrupted a very important governors meeting (we're sorry)!



On 18th November, some members of Year 6 were able to visit Coombe Wood school for a Transition Day in sport. They were able to look at how PE would be taught in secondary schools and it gave the children the opportunity to make the most of the facilities Coombe Wood has to offer.



On 22nd November, 8 pupils from Year 3 up to Year 6 went to Archbishop Lanfranc for a Sport Panathlon event. The event consisted of the children competing against many other schools in various games and sports that were unfamiliar to our children. This was a great opportunity for our pupils to immerse themselves in sports that may have never had the opportunity



Dates for your Diary Spring 2023

- Monday 2nd January School Closed Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 3rd January Spring term starts
- Friday 6th January Friends of Elmwood Meeting
- Wednesday 11th January Maz Evans Visit
- Friday 20th January Special Spanish Workshop Day
- Monday 30th January Year 5 start swimming
- Tuesday 31st January George Knowland Day
- Tuesday 7th February Online Safety Day
- Friday 10th February Charity Event Day

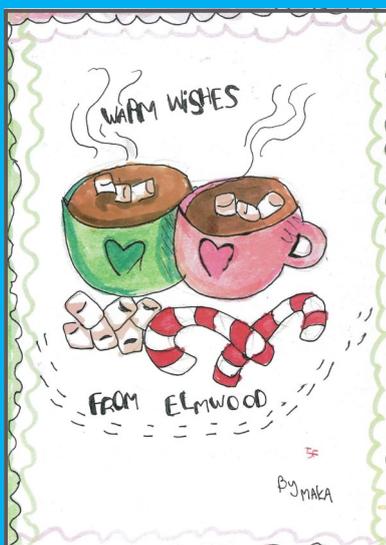
Year 5 and 6 Choir



On 1st December, Upper School Choir had the opportunity to go to a Christmas concert held at Croydon Minster. There was a whole orchestra playing, with professional musicians, as well as Secondary School instrumentalists and singers. For many of the children, it was their first experience of live music and of seeing an orchestra and conductor in person. Our favourite piece was the Christmas medley which included Jingle Bells!

Christmas Card Competition

This years' Christmas card competition winners—here are two of our winners! Congratulations to Maka in 5F and Alice in 6S.



Christmas Concert

On Thursday 8th December, Lower School Choir and Upper School Choir came together to put on an amazing Christmas Concert in the school hall

They had worked incredibly hard in weekly rehearsals to learn and practise the songs and some of the children had to overcome big nerves to get up and perform in front of friends and family. But they all did it, with smiles on their faces, and they sounded fantastic.

Well done choirs - Elmwood is very proud of you!



Friends of Elmwood

Our Friends of Elmwood parent group are working hard to provide support for families who are in need of additional support at a time which is becoming increasingly difficult for many. This support is currently in the form of food / essentials packages which can be provided. Please reach out to Mrs Devecioglu, Mrs Macleod or Mr Marston if you feel your family would benefit from this support.



Christmas Term Break Reading Challenge!

- Can you read at least 2 books over the holidays?

Attendance Awards

Elmwood Juniors overall attendance for the last 7 weeks was 94%. Our winning Class for the term was 4K with 97% attendance

CONGRATULATIONS!

LATEST NEWS!!!!

On the 7th December Croydon Council approved the Street Scheme for Elmwood Juniors and Infants. This will provide restrictions to driving down Greenwood and Lodge Road between 8-9:30 am and 2 to 4pm on weekdays. As yet we do not know when the scheme will be implemented however if you use a car to drive your child to school I strongly suggest you start to plan alternative arrangements.

The purpose of the scheme is to encourage all parents to walk their children to school. Air pollution caused by vehicles is the biggest single cause of respiratory health problems in Croydon, especially with children. This scheme will help not only improve the air quality for your children around school but also make for a safer street. Many parents have been dropping off their children in an unsafe manner before school.

As soon as we have more information we will let you know.

Kind regards

Mr Marston

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Cabinet approves plans to boost healthier school Year



Thousands more pupils in Croydon could be making safer, healthier journeys as the council proposes to trial 10 new Healthy School Street (HSS) schemes in the New Year.

School Streets help to improve safety around schools and encourage more pupils to walk, cycle and scoot more often, by limiting motor traffic on the surrounding roads during school drop-off and pick-up times.

Proposals to launch 10 new HSS schemes early next year were accepted last night (7 December) at a Cabinet meeting.

Following an informal consultation in September, all but three of the proposed schemes will be trialled based on survey responses, traffic displacement data, and discussions with the schools.

The schemes will be subject to a trial for up to 18 months, from the day they become active. Public consultation and data monitoring on the schemes' effects is expected to start when the trial launches, with a decision on their future taken before the end of that period.

During the first six-months of the trials, the council collects formal objections as well as feedback, which is used to see if any improvements can be made.

Local residents living within the scheme area will be eligible to apply for a free School Street Exemption permit, so they can have access at all times. In addition, the council will provide exemption permits to some road-users who may need access – including transport for children with special needs. Other vehicles, such as emergency services or refuse vehicles will be automatically exempt.



“Helping families make the school run safer and healthier is part of our wider plans to improve how we travel around Croydon, and we are trialling these schemes to see if they can achieve those goals.

“We have been listening to the community, collecting feedback, and working with headteachers, and we understand the congestion and parking issues local residents are dealing with. We look forward to seeing whether these trials will be able to alleviate those issues and make the streets safer for pupils.”

Councillor Lynne Hale, Deputy Executive Mayor of Croydon

The decision is subject to scrutiny before being finalised, and a timeline of works will be announced in the coming weeks.

More information about Healthy School Streets can be found on the [council website](#).

December 8th, 2022 | [Recent news](#)

CHRISTMAS HAF PROGRAMME NOW OPEN TO BOOK

This Christmas, the Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) is set to offer children across Croydon the opportunity to attend free activity clubs with healthy meals.

Open to all children aged 4-16 receiving benefits-related free school meals all programmes will provide

- free, nutritious, and tasty food
- fun physical activity sessions
- a wide range of other exciting activities to suit different ages and personalities
- opportunities to learn more about food and nutrition for children and their families

To book, please visit Croydon.gov.uk/holiday-activities-and-food