



# ELMWOOD JUNIORS NEWSLETTER

February 2023



## Half Time!

Dear Parents and Carers

I always consider this point in the year to be the half time whistle on our academic year. It's a time to take stock of progress made and then look forward to the second half, always with the view on how to make things even better here at Elmwood Juniors.

A highlight of this half term has been the George Knowland Day on 31st January. Learning about the history of our original Elmwood Hero, and conducting the George Knowland Service was a fantastic privilege. The children sang fantastically for the service and all our special visitors, including members of the British Army, George Knowland's family, and the Mayor of Croydon all commented on how excellently behaved all the children were and how outstanding the singing was—well done Elmwood!

Looking forward to the rest of the academic year we are continuing to work hard on reworking the school curriculum so that themes and lessons are exciting, relevant and interesting for all children. We have many trips set up for each year group coming up, and we are increasing our links with Croydon Legacy, an outstanding local service that supports our community.

I would also like to make a special mention to our Friends of Elmwood, who have enabled us to set up a second hand uniform shop each month, as well as provide food for families in particular need within our school community. As I write this, on Friday we have our second special charity event - Pyjama Day - led by the children for the Pakistan Flood Appeal. We as a community can make a difference in the world today and hopefully your children are grasping some of the possibilities of really making a difference and showing compassion beyond our immediate community.

Have a fantastic half term with your families.

Kind regards  
**Mr Marston**

## Year 3

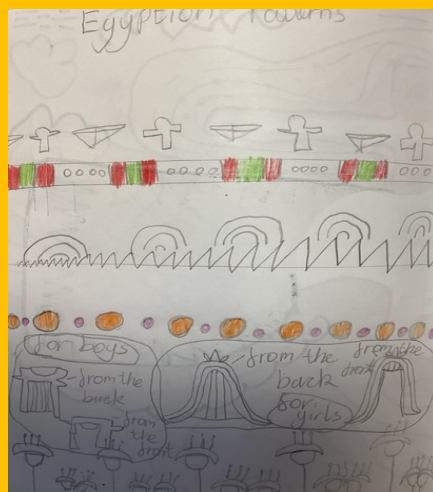
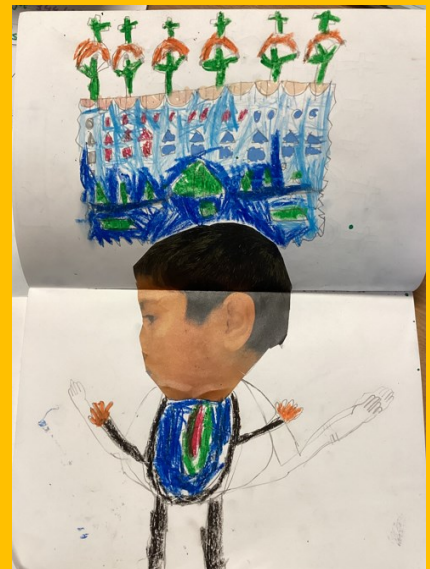
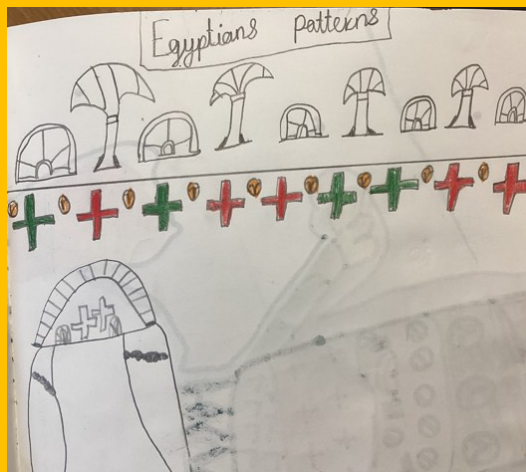
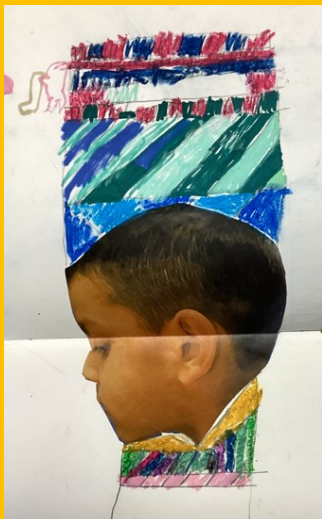
### Ancient Egyptian Entry point

This spring term, for our entry point, we became archaeologists and discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun. We took torches, broke down shafts and recorded the various artefacts we found, including the mummy of Tutankhamun! We examined some of the artefacts and discussed what this told us about King Tutankhamun. The children then came up with many questions about the Ancient Egyptian times, including our main enquiry question "Was everyone in Egypt an 'Ancient Egyptian?'".



### Art project: Ancient Egyptian Art Headdresses

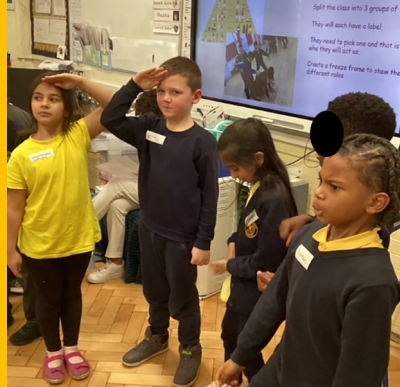
In Art, we looked at various headdresses and discussed the colours and patterns that were used. We talked about the patterns that they wanted to use and discussed what a portrait and a profile was. The children then sketched patterns and used a variety of mediums such as pastel and acrylic pens to create their own headdresses.





## History: Ancient Egyptian Roles

We have had many exciting history lessons this half term. In this lesson, we looked at the different roles in Egypt and then the children acted out the roles and created their own social hierarchy pyramid.



## English - Get into character!

In English, we became Tutankhamun and the children were able to ask the great 'Boy King' questions about life as a pharaoh in Egypt. This helped them when writing a non-chronological report all about Ancient Egypt and Tutankhamun.



## **Year 4**

### Time capsule

Year 4's half-termly theme for Spring 1 was 'Invention and Innovation'. To kick start this project, we looked at the inventions that are relevant in our lives, as well as things we felt summed up 2023. Each class was tasked with a collaborative writing piece as well as selecting a few items that gave a 'snapshot' of this year. We put all of these things together into a Time Capsule which we planted on the school grounds. The children were all very excited to be part of Elmwood history!



## Year 4

### William Morris Art Project

In Art this half term, year 4 have been studying the work of William Morris, looking at intricate design and pattern. We then designed our own clay initial tiles using his work as inspiration. Here are some examples of our beautiful completed pieces!



### Music

Since September, Year 4 children have been learning to play an instrument - ukulele in 4R and 4K, and recorder in 4B and 4C.

In their final lessons with those instruments, the children played through a selection of the tunes and songs they have learnt to play. These were recorded and put onto Google Classrooms so that families can see what the children have been learning to do - we're sure you'll be impressed!



Now we are halfway through the year, the classes will be swapping over instruments for the second half of year 4.

### 2023 Attendance Awards

## CONGRATULATIONS!

A special congratulations to 5J who achieved our first 100% attendance for a week this term. The children will be receiving a special award for achieving this target later in the term.

One of our learning values that we have focussed on this term is.....

## resilient

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the ability to be knocked down by the hardships of life and come back at least as strong as before. being able to change course, emotionally heal, and continue moving towards your goal.



## Year 5

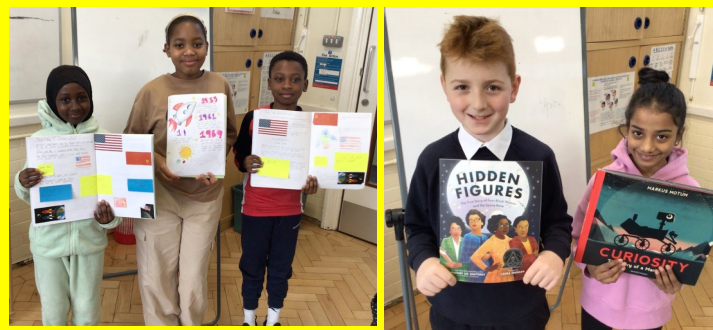
### Year 5 Swimming Lessons

This half term 5F and 5J have been having swimming lessons at our local swimming pool. It has been lots of fun going in the morning, and a great way to start the day! We have learnt lots of different strokes including front crawl, breast stroke and back crawl. On one of the days, we even got to learn some life saving skills and had to wear our pyjamas in the pool. Next half term it is 5S and 5FST's turn to go swimming - they have a lot to look forward to.



### Space exploration and NASA

Our theme this half term in Year 5 has been Space and Exploration. In English we focused on two texts - Hidden Figures and Curiosity: The Story of the Mars Rover. You have probably heard about Neil Armstrong being the first man on the moon, but have you heard about Mary Jackson, Dorothy Vaughan, Katherine Johnson and Christine Darden? They were three black female mathematicians who worked for NASA. The story is based around the work these ladies did, and it is called 'Hidden Figures' because until recently, a lot of their work went unnoticed despite their mathematical skill helping NASA make it into space. The work we are holding up is all about the Space Race, which the ladies from the book Hidden Figures helped the United States progress in. If it wasn't for them, Neil Armstrong might not have made it to the moon so quickly!



### Art - Digital Space Art inspired by David Hockney

This half term we had a go at creating digital artwork inspired by David Hockney.

David Hockney is known for using bold and bright colours, and painting landscapes. This inspired us to create our own piece using the same bright and bold colours David does, and using space as our landscape. After researching his work, we had a go at sketching some ideas. When we had a rough idea of what we wanted our final piece to look like, we drew it out first using acrylic paint pens. Then we went onto recreating this on the iPads digitally. Graphic designers, illustrators, video game creators all use this technique to create artwork, and we can see why - our final pieces look creative and professional.



## Year 6

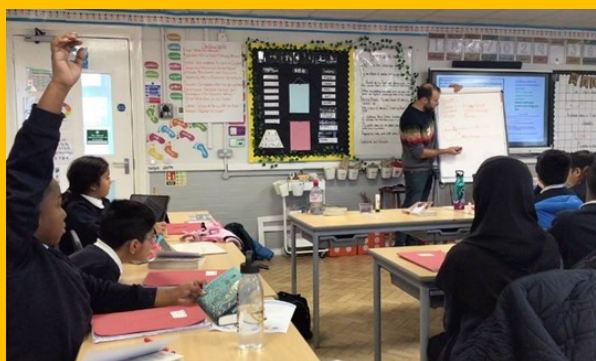
### English

Our theme for this half term has been 'Migration' and in English, we looked at comparing life in the Caribbean to life in England, as if we were in the Windrush generation:



### Author Visit

Year 6 were lucky enough to have our class reading book's author, Rob Lloyd Jones, come in for an assembly and workshop. It was very interesting to hear all about his first ideas with 'Wild Boy' and where they came from.



### Visitors

To fit with our theme of Migration, 6W were very lucky to have two visitors on a Friday afternoon. Miss Bhatti discussed with us what life was like after moving from her home country. She reflected on her own personal experiences of being the first Asian child to join her primary school.

We also had a visit from a parent, who shared with 6W her move from Mauritius as a child with her family. It was fascinating to hear personal stories that were similar to those that we had been learning about on the Windrush. Thank you very much to our visitors!





## NSPCC Number Day



How would an Architect use Maths?



How many different topics can you think of?

Number Day

NSPCC

On Friday 3rd February, our school supported the NSPCC Number Day. The children took part in 'Dress up for Digits' and spent part of the day exploring the importance of Maths in later life and how it is used in different careers. The children also competed in a nationwide Times Tables Rockstars competition called NSPCC Rocks and finished in 191st out of 2700 schools across the country!

## Maz Evans Author Visit

On Wednesday 11th January, Maz Evans - author of the 'Who Let the Gods Out' series - visited our school. She had a Q&A session with Year 5 as they explored the first book in the series in the Autumn term. Maz commented on how impressive the children's questions were. She told them of her inspiration for writing, her resilience in publishing her books and why she created the characters she did. Maz then presented an assembly to the whole school and signed copies of her books in the library. The children were fantastic in welcoming Maz and I am sure that her visit inspired their love of reading and writing.



## Key dates for your diary Spring 2023

Monday 20th February –INSET Day — school closed

Wednesday 1st March — Dress up in a book character day

6th March to 17th March — Swimming 5S & 5FST

Monday & Tuesday 13th & 14th March — Parents Evening

Wednesday/Thursday 22nd/23rd March — Year 3 Visit to Godstone Farm

Thursday/Friday 23rd/24th March — Year 5 Visit to The Science Museum

Friday 31st March — Pakistan Flood Appeal Charity Event & last day of term

## Sports Events

Throughout this half term our sporting teams have had the chance to apply their sporting skills into both competitive and friendly games against other schools.

A group of Year 4 and 5 children visited Coombe Wood School where they were taught a variety of Basketball skills and took part in a 3X3 Basketball tournament. 3x3 Basketball was played in the Commonwealth games for the first time ever last year so it was great for the children to experience!



Our Netball team have been enjoying their season so far, they have been taking part in the Croydon Schools Netball league and are currently in the second stage of matches. Their most recent match was against Margaret Roper Primary School. On top of league matches, they are also preparing for a qualifying tournament at Shirley High on the 9th February.

## Trips

### Year 3

Some of our Year 3 and 4 pupils represented our school in a showcase event at Trinity School. Here they were given the opportunity to build on their Netball Skills and took part in training drills led by Trinity's own Netball A Team, who have qualified at a regional level!

We were then lucky enough to be invited to stay and watch Trinity's A team match against Alleyn's School.



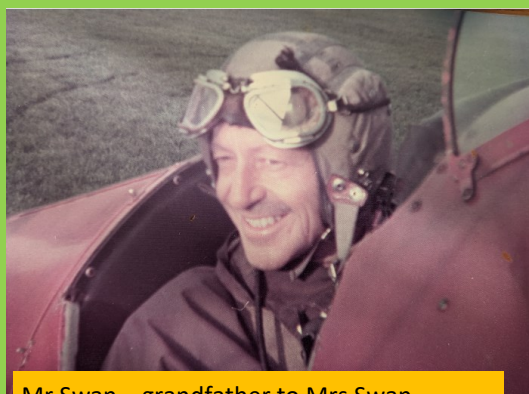


## George Knowland VC Day 2023

On January 31st, the school commemorated one of our finest heroes: George Knowland VC, who gave his life during World War 2. Year 6 played a huge role in the running of the event from welcoming our distinguished guests, setting out the seats and even presenting the assembly. The event culminated in two of our Year 6 pupils winning the George Knowland Award, which recognises excellence throughout their time at Elmwood Junior School. Huge congratulations to **Rehan** (6P) and **Sumaya** (6S).



## Half Term Challenge — Discover a family story of resilience



Mr Swan—grandfather to Mrs Swan Thompson and World War 2 Fighter Pilot

As part of this month's Elmwood Learning Value being resilience I have asked the children to investigate their family history. Do they have any amazing stories of resilience from their family? Mrs Swan-Thompson has shared the story of her grandfather who had to persuade recruitment officers in 1939 that he was suitable to be a fighter pilot. He was at that time a Librarian! Mr Swan went on to fly Hurricanes in the North African campaign as well as test pilot Spitfires after the war. Please encourage your child to investigate your family history—maybe your family has an amazing resilience story!

Perhaps you have some amazing stories from family living overseas? Contact them on Zoom if they are in other countries. Your child could then write a report, maybe with photos explaining what cool resilience stories they have found!

## MIP roll call for February!

The Most Improved Person Award (MIP) is based on a special award handed out every year in the US NBA Basketball series. This half term's 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 - February 2023

Who is your Most Improved Person - This term?

3S	3B	3C	3M
Sinchan	Adam	Tommy	Rhoman
4C	4B	4R	4K
Rayan	Jessie	Sean Paul <input type="checkbox"/>	Ester
5F	5S	5FST	5J
Teniola	Monika	Amy	Natalia
6H	6P	6W	6S
Aritma	Amalia	Meena	Tianna

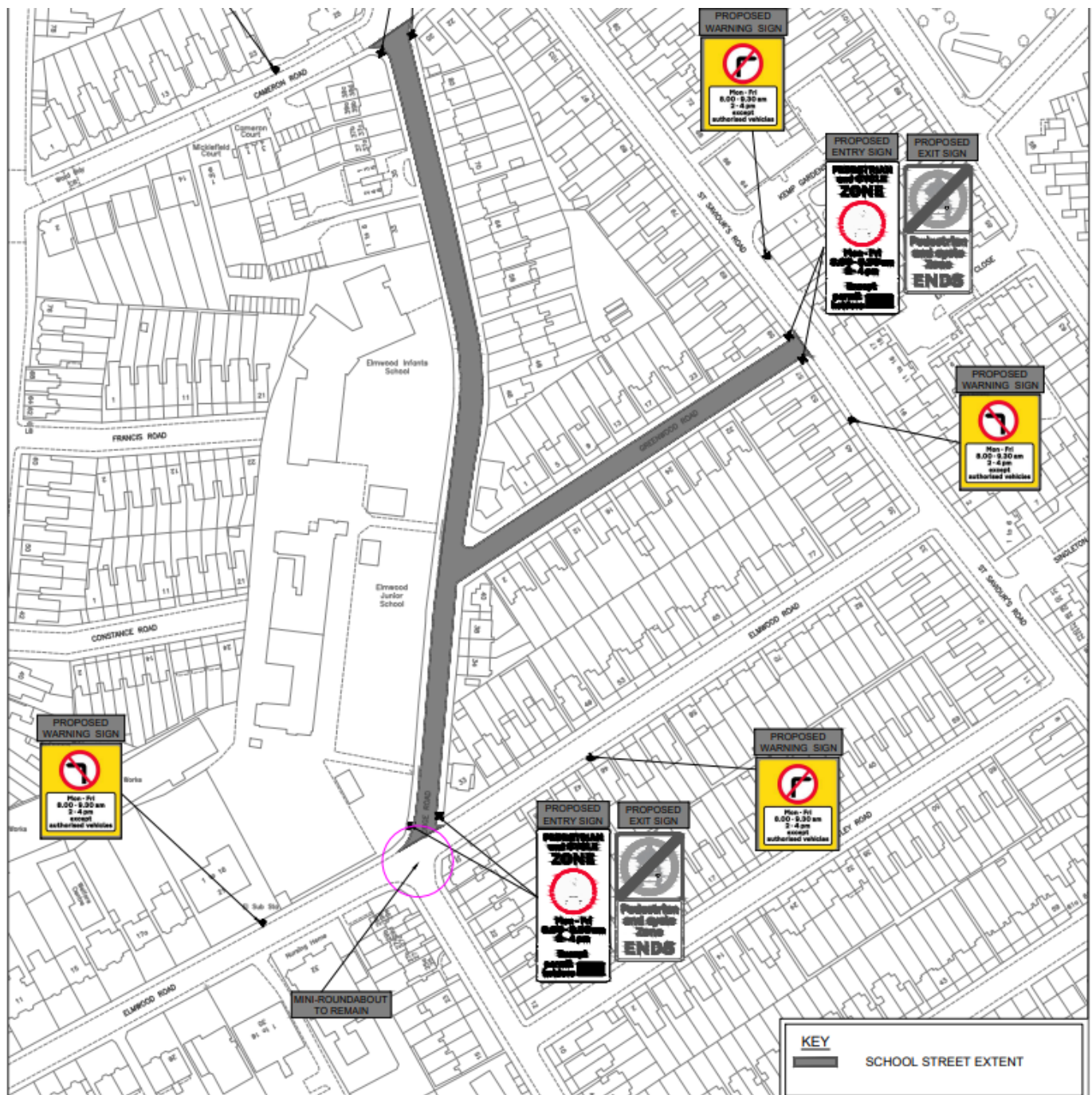


# News Flash!!!

Croydon Healthy Street Scheme is coming to Elmwood

Starting Monday 13th March 2023

See the map below



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