

ELMWOOD JUNIORS NEWSLETTER

Oct 2023



A Fresh Start - A New Year

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the first edition newsletter for the new year. I can't believe we have already been back for 7 weeks. Hopefully your child has settled well with their class teacher and is enjoying the challenges that they will be facing as they learn in a new year group.

There are a lot of new things here at Elmwood Juniors, as you would expect, as we relentlessly improve and develop the school. You will have all noticed the new Music and outdoor learning area that arrived over the summer. Did you know that Elmwood was the first school in the country to have a full Steel Pan Orchestra? Well we now have a home for this and your child will be learning how to play this amazing instrument! Also new is the school logo, as chosen by us the Elmwood community, which is now on the school uniform. Elmwood children are wearing their uniform with real pride this year.

We have new playground markings at the front of the school building which the children have been really enjoying.

We have also brought our PE teaching in-house: it is now being taught by Miss Jiminez and Mr Melantuche. Children are taught the specific skills of key sports such as tennis and cricket during the year.

Another new initiative is that every child has a responsibility within the school under our 'everyone's a leader' program. In the last Wednesday of each half-term, we hold a special 'everyone's a leader' afternoon where the whole school is divided into their responsibilities and complete a range of activities in their leadership area. As always here at Elmwood, we want to enhance your child's confidence and sense of responsibility and trust that this new endeavour will teach all children that they have a part to play in our community.

Yet another new initiative we are running every Friday is the whole school 'reflection time'. Children from all year groups will be encouraged to reflect upon a whole week of learning and write in the reflection area of the Home School Diary. Parents can then read about what your child has learnt this week. It will also help develop a log of your child's learning throughout the whole year.

Some of you may have noticed that we have introduced 'Bikeability' in Year 6. This fantastic initiative involved expert tuition being brought in to teach children how to ride safely. I am sure you will agree that ensuring road safety is a non-negotiable. With this in mind please can we all be mindful that Lodge Road should only have permitted cars at school opening and closing hours. I am currently in contact with Croydon Council to ensure that this excellent initiative is appropriately enforced as we are all concerned about the safety of our children on the road just outside the school.

And finally, we will have some new initiatives taking place over the next academic year including the redesign of the school hall to reflect the schools vision and values. With this in mind, I would like children and parents to find amazing quotes to represent our 10 values. If you find some great quotes please do send them into myself.

Once again I thank you for our close working relationship as parents and Elmwood staff so that we can ensure your child has the very best opportunities here at Elmwood.

Have a great half term.
Mr Marston

A Team Player

*Great things in business
are never achieved by one
person. They're achieved
by a team of people.*

Steve Jobs

TEAM

T	TOGETHER
E	EVERYONE
A	ACHIEVES
M	MORE



YEAR 3

Stone age entry point and workshop

Our theme for this half term has been 'Flint, stones and bones'. To start our topic and get the children excited about their learning, they went on a stone age adventure morning. Throughout the morning, they took part in different activities, such as cave painting, a stone age scavenger hunt, created stone age music and did some drama. Along with this, we were also very fortunate to have a Stone Age workshop where we heard stories from the Stone Age times, examined artefacts and even took part in some mammoth hunting!



Respectful



*We should all
consider each other
as human beings,
and we should
respect each other*

Malala Yousafzai

Compassionate

*No act of
kindness, no
matter how
small, is ever
wasted.*

Aesop



DT Stone Age settlements

Throughout the half-term, we have been learning about the Stone Age. We found out that it was split into three different times. The Paleolithic, Mesolithic and the Neolithic times. During these times, the people developed their skills and lived in various homes. For our DT project this half-term, we researched more about their homes and then created our own Stone Age settlements

Year 4

Trip to London Zoo

Our theme this half-term has been 'Freedom and Protection'. To get the children excited about the upcoming work, we took them to the exhibits at London Zoo. During their visit, pupils were given the opportunity to see a wide variety of wild animals from across the world, and begin thinking about conservation both on a worldwide level as well as things we could do at home to help save the planet!



Creative



*There is no doubt
that creativity is
the most
important
resource of all*
Edward de Bono

2023 Attendance Awards

CONGRATULATIONS!

A big congratulations to 5DJ and 6P
who achieved 100% attendance for an
entire week this half term!



LEGO live lesson

We were invited to join a LEGO live lesson on the topic of 'Build the Change'. In this interactive session, children were inspired to design their own futuristic cities, considering urban biodiversity and how their city design could help support local wildlife. This lesson went alongside our overarching theme for this half-term and linked well with the themes in our text, 'Varmints'.



Painting in the style of Georgia O'Keefe

This half term we have studied the artist, Georgia O'Keefe. We have looked at the inspiration behind her artwork, discussing important technical vocabulary such as 'still life' and 'composition'. We have also looked carefully at her use of colour, applying our knowledge of the colour wheel to create our own masterpieces inspired by her work!



Year 5

Art - Creating Gargoyles

This half term in Year 5 our theme has been Legends and Tales. In our Art lessons, we have been exploring and creating Gargoyles! Gargoyles are ugly creatures that you often see carved onto old buildings like churches. After doing some research and looking at some Gargoyles on buildings in Croydon and Central London we had a go at creating our own. At first, we drew them using charcoal, then we made our very own 3D Gargoyles using clay. It was a lot of fun!



Year 5 English

We have been reading the famous Anglo-Saxon tale of Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo in our English lessons. Inspired by the story, we wrote our own missing chapter. Our stories were brilliant and showed off our creativity, imagination and range of vocabulary. We published them on tea-stain paper to give the impression they had been written in Anglo-Saxon times.

Year 5 R.E - Islam

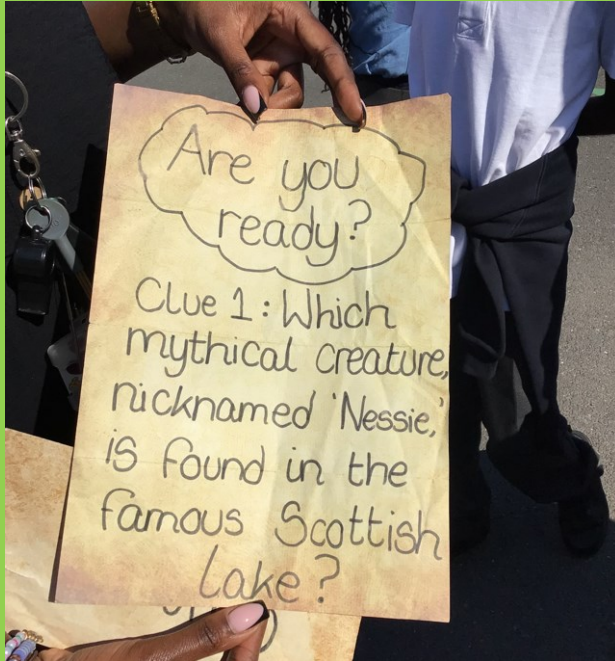
In our R.E lessons, we have been learning about Islam and commitment. We had the chance to explore some Islamic artefacts. Some of the class were experts and knew what each artefact symbolised and meant. They were great teachers and taught others all about the importance in their religion.



Year 6

Year 6 English

Our entry point for our theme was a scavenger hunt, using clues about famous myths and stories from around the world. The children were given a map with pictures of famous myths and stories and they would have to run to the place on the map to find the next clue.



Key dates for your diary Autumn 2023

30/10—School Closed INSET

31/10—5DJ swimming

2/11—5F & 5A Trip to Science Museum

3/11—5S & 5DJ Trip to Science Museum

13 & 14/11—Parents evening

20/11—5S swimming begins

27/11—5F & 5A swimming begins

7/12—Christmas Fair after school

13/12—Christmas Jumper Day

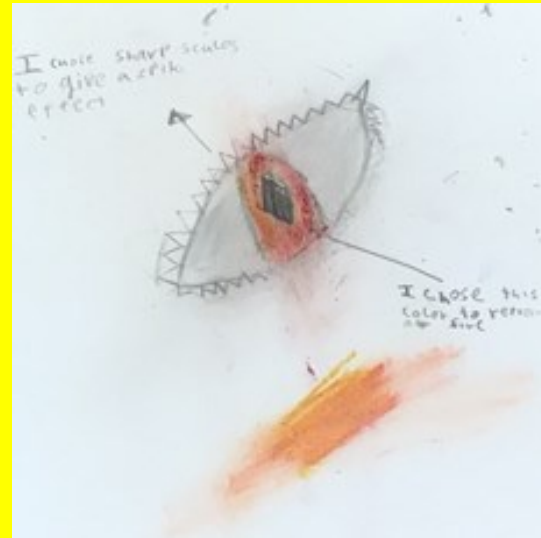
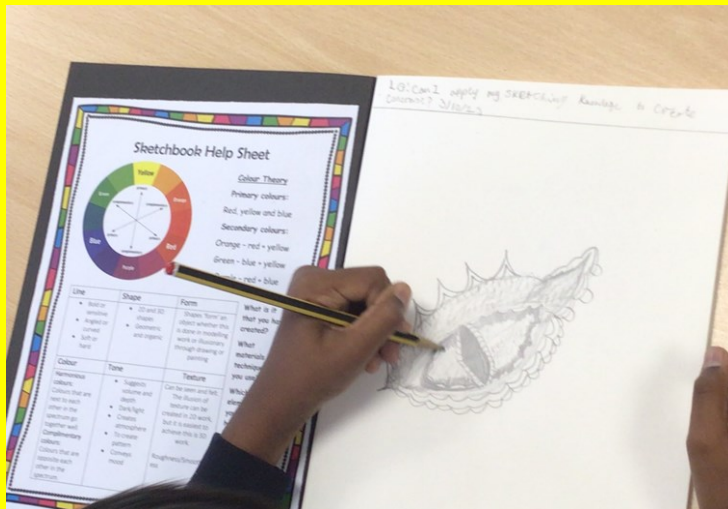
13/12—Christmas Concert after school

19/12—Y3 Nativity Performance

21/12—Last day of term

Year 6 Art

In Art, we have been creating 'Dragon Eyes' as part of our Theme: Myths and Stories.



We began by sketching out our eyes in our books, justifying our choices with annotations.

Next, we used clay to mould our dragon eyes.



After this, we will be painting our clay eyes.

Confident



If we all did the things we are capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves.

THOMAS EDISON

Responsible



The final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands

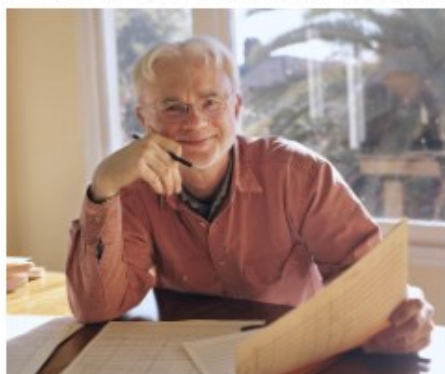
Anne Frank

Music

This year, we have introduced a new feature, "Composer of the Month". Each month, we will be introducing a different composer (music writer) to the whole school via Wednesday assembly and Google Classroom, and listening to some of their music. Our two composers of the month this half term have both been 20th Century musicians from the USA.

September - John Adams (born 1947)

Focus piece: "Short Ride in a Fast Machine"



www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/KS2-3/zkthsrdr

October - Florence Price (1887-1953)

Focus piece: "Symphony No. 1 (3rd mvt)"



www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/classical-music-florence-price-symphony-no1/z48rscw

MIP roll call for October!

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

3S	3B	3R	3C
Andreea	Rayan	Hashir	Zayaan
4K	4Bh	4R	4Bl
Aleida	Sudaysi	Khalid	Mufazzil
5F	5S	5DJ	5A
Nina	Manasseh	Alex	Iram
6H	6P	6F	6S
Teniola	Lucas	Calum	Salomea

Everyone's a Leader

On Wednesday 18th October, the whole school took part in a range of activities within their area of leadership. This included the reading champions, gardening team, digital leaders, science ambassadors and many more. At Elmwood, we are passionate about developing leaders who are equipped to create a better world in the future.



Our first Times Tables Rockstars tournament of the year is now underway. Children and classes have to compete against each other to try and earn as many points as they can to finish as high as they can in the league tables. Please encourage your children to participate in the TTRS tournament as regular repetition of times tables is a great way to help embed fluency with times tables.