

# ELMWOOD JUNIORS NEWSLETTER

Feb 2024



Curious Creative Compassionate



## A New Year—A chance to learn new things!

Dear Parents and Carers

Elmwood has a very interesting history. A history I've been learning more about this term. Whilst delving through the school archive room I recently came across a dusty old photo album. Inside was a meticulously created log of Elmwood Juniors National profile in the 1970's with its then famous Steel Pan Band. Did you know that Elmwood was the first school ever to have a Steel Pan Band in the UK? It was set up by Russ Henderderson in 1970 to celebrate Caribbean heritage. Elmwood's Steel Pan Band went on to perform on national TV in 1972, the Royal Albert Hall, as well as various music and cultural events across the country in the 1970's (see a copy of a newspaper article from 1972 at the back of this newsletter). When we discover a great history we realise what has been achieved here at Elmwood, and also what can be achieved here again. We have our new Music Block and all the children will now have lessons in playing this amazing instrument during this academic year. We look forward to the first Elmwood performance for many years this summer at the International Elmwood Fair. I must extend a huge thank you to Mrs Smith for her development in learning how to teach and redevelop this fantastic legacy.

The past can inspire us into the future. Perhaps you have some photos and recollections from the past here at Elmwood if you were a former student—I'd love to hear your stories!

For now enjoy this half term's Elmwood News. Have a fantastic half term, and remember school opens again for children on Tuesday 20th February.

Kind regards

**Mr Marston**

## George Knowland Day



We held our special George Knowland VC Day on 31st January. I am proud to announce our two winners of this years prestigious George Knowland Award were Aron from 6H and Isabella in 6F. We were honoured to sing with military veterans, the family of George Knowland and the Mayor of Croydon, who revealed during his speech that he was indeed a former pupil of Elmwood! As ever all the distinguished guests were impressed by both the behaviour and singing of all the Elmwood children. They are a credit to us all!

## 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

## 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

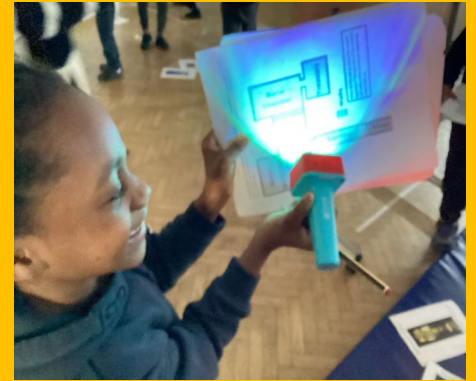
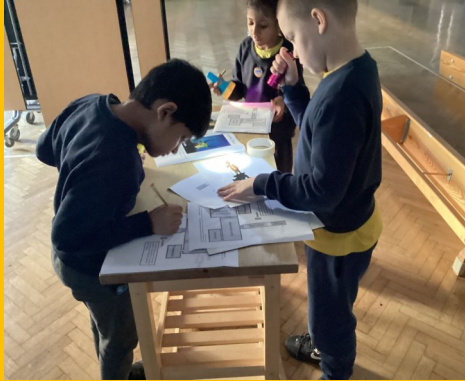




## **YEAR 3**

### **Egyptian Tomb entry point**

For our entry point this term, the children discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun. They became archaeologists and discovered ancient artefacts which helped them discover more about what life was like in the Ancient Egyptian times. This made the children excited and curious as they started their new topic to answer our big enquiry question, 'What was life like as an Ancient Egyptian?'



### **British Museum Trip**

As part of our theme 'Ancient Discoveries', year 3 went on a trip to the British museum. They enjoyed looking at all the artefacts in the museum and showed great curiosity when asking questions about the Egyptians. They also attended an 'Excavation in Egypt' workshop where they examined various artefacts and were able to make deductions about life in Egypt.



## Egyptian slideshow presentations

In computing this term, the year 3s have been developing their typing and google slideshow skills. They learnt how to create their own slides, add text and images and how to resize and reformat the text and images. They worked hard throughout the term on this project, showing great resilience and creativity, to create their slides all about Ancient Egyptians. They then displayed great presentation skills as they presented their slideshow to the class.

## Year 4

### Making clay letter tiles

This half term, we have been studying the work of artist and designer, William Morris. The children spent time researching the inspiration behind his work, as well as why his prints and designs are still popular today. The children then worked in stages, from creating their letter tile using clay tools to painting their finished creation.



### 2024 Attendance Awards

#### CONGRATULATIONS!

The Classes with the highest attendance this half term are as follows;

3B—97.3%

3R—97%

4BL—97%

Unfortunately no class reached 100% in any given week—the challenge is on for next half term!

## Creative

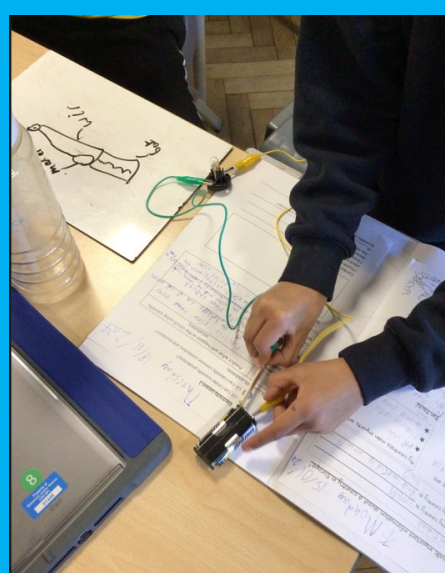
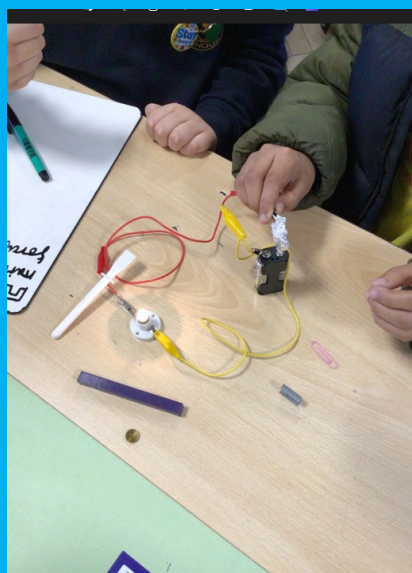
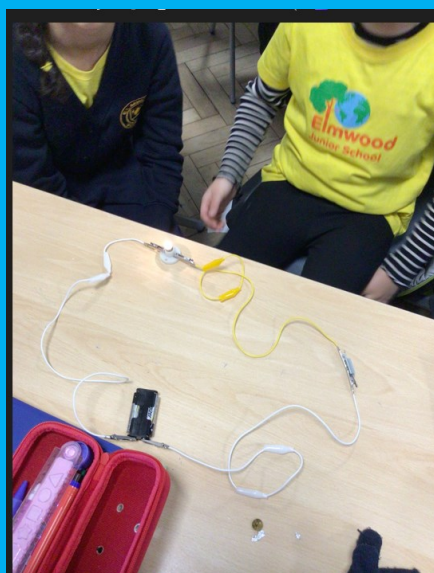


*There is no doubt  
that creativity is  
the most  
important  
resource of all*  
Edward de Bono



## Experimenting with circuit making

As our theme this half term has been 'Invention and Innovation', our focus has been 'Electricity' in Science. The children have really enjoyed the hands-on, practical lessons, working hard to create function circuits of increasing complexity. We have used lots of the 'working scientifically' skills in our lessons and the children have become confident using lots of technical scientific vocabulary such as 'insulator' and 'conductor'.



## **MIP roll call for February!**

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

3S	3B	3C	3R
Samuel	Lawy	Anhelina	Frankie
4Bl	4Ba	4R	4K
Marisa	Zayne	Malaya	Rozmeenae
5F	5S	5A	5DJ
Jannath	Kiara	Jenieka	Hamza
6H	6P	6F	6S
Kaya	Angeleena Binu	Aizah	Devonte

## Year 5

### D.T - Making Jollof Rice

In history, we have been learning all about the Kingdom of Benin - Ancient Nigerian History. We have also been learning all about Nigeria in Geography, so it was only right that in our D.T lessons we had a go at cooking a tasty Nigerian recipe. The recipe we chose was Jollof Rice. Our rice dishes were packed with healthy vegetables and delicious spices. We learnt all about the nutrition of the dish, and how to cook in a safe and hygienic way before we started.



### Science - Living things and their habitat

Our science topic this half term has been 'Living Things and their Habitats'. During one lesson, we learnt all about pollination. Pollination is an essential part of how plants reproduce. We went outside and had a look around our school grounds to examine the plants and see if we could spot the signs of how they had been pollinated.







### **Chemlink - Trinity school**

Twelve children from year 5 were selected to attend a Chemlink laboratory taster session at Trinity School. Over the afternoon, the children were taught about different hazardous symbols, basic safety in a laboratory and they also conducted several different experiments. As well as plenty of fizzes, pops and bangs, the children were excellent ambassadors for Elmwood, asking interesting questions and applying their own science knowledge to answer questions they were asked.





## Year 6

### SPLATT Theatre

In our first week back after Christmas, Year 6 enjoyed a trip to SPLATT Theatre, held at Beckenham Baptist Church, as an entry point to our theme: Conflict and Resolution. The children were transported back in time to wartime Britain and they played evacuees who had to pick up skills such as baking with rationed ingredients, sewing and even practiced an air raid drill.



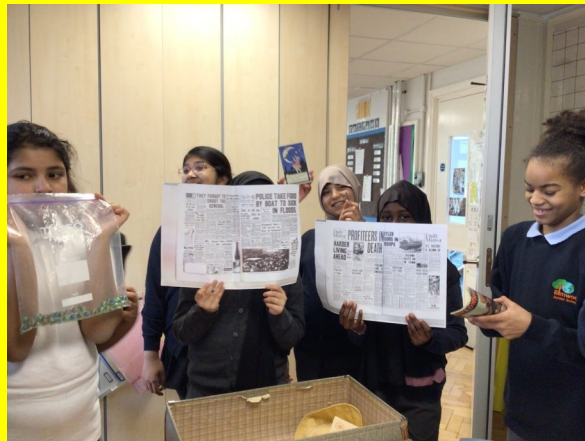


## JCS Trip

We also visited Croydon Fire Station at the start of term, as part of the Junior Citizenship Scheme. This enabled the children to be ready for any challenges they may encounter on their way to and from secondary school. We had talks from: the police, the fire brigade, the ambulance service as well as Transport for London.

## Theme work

As our theme has been Conflict and Resolution, our lessons have centered around the First and Second World Wars. We have written letters from a WW1 trench and learned about life in Britain during WW2 (Dunkirk evacuation, Battle of Britain and the Blitz). We have also been looking at the life of Anne Frank in our English lessons.



# Confident



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THOMAS EDISON

# Responsible



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

Anne Frank

At the end of each week, we have been practicing retrieval questions based on our lessons and trips this half term. Please feel free to play these games with the children at home:

**Retrieval Practice grid.** Roll the dice twice and answer the question. You can have more than one attempt!

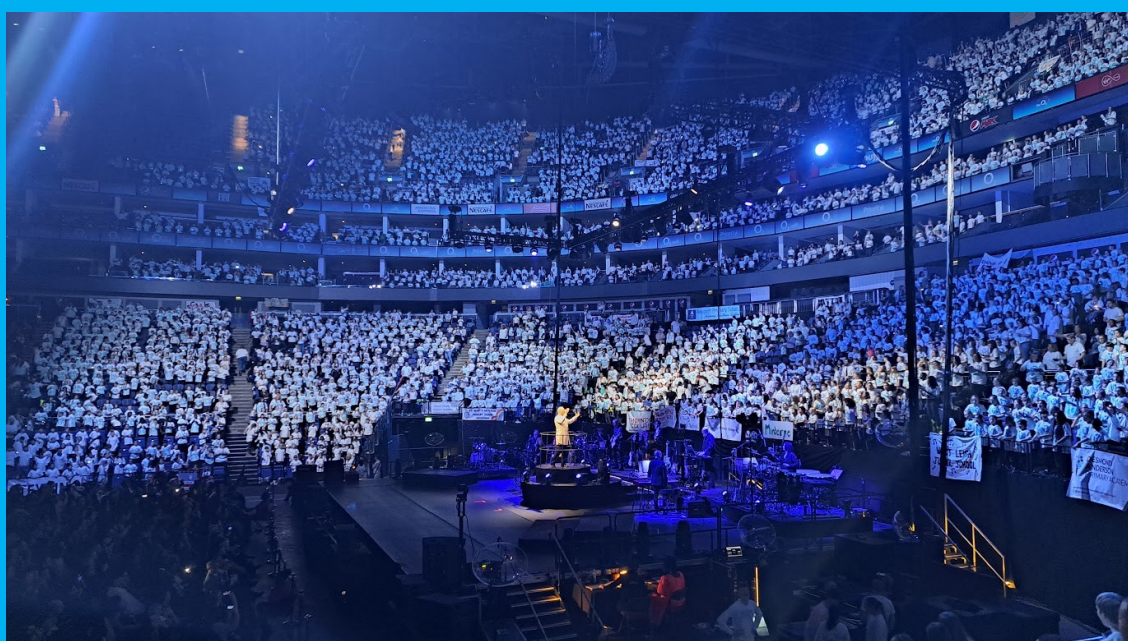
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	When did WW2 start?	How many men were evacuated in Dunkirk?	Why do you think some children remain in the countryside after war?	Who became Prime Minister during WW2?	What does Blitzkrieg mean?	What is rationing?
2	Why did children feel differently about evacuation?	Why did rationing carry on after the war?	Why did the Nazis lose the Battle of Britain?	Tell me three things an evacuee would take with them.	Where was the Battle of Britain fought?	What's a billeting officer?
3	Why did Hitler become a dictator?	Where did Anne Frank and her family move to?	Name 2 types of shelters used in World War 2.	When did WW2 end?	Which country did Hitler invade which started WW2?	What was Operation Sealion?
4	How did WW1 effect the start of WW2?	What was the blackout?	What was the substitute for butter? Why was it used instead?	What was the codename for the Dunkirk evacuation?	What did Anne Frank call her diary?	What does 'Dig for Victory' mean?
5	When did the Blitz begin?	Who had to wear stars on their clothes? Why?	Where was Hitler born?	What did people use to collect their rations?	Would you rather experience World War 1 or World War 2 - why?	Where did Anne Frank hide?
6	What was the initiative 'Make do and Mend' meant to promote?	Who was the Prime Minister of Britain at the start of WW2?	Where else in London would people go during the Blitz to be safe?	What jobs did women do during war?	What's an air raid siren?	Have you enjoyed this unit? Why?





## Choir at the Young Voices Concert at the O2

On Monday 15th January, Mrs Smith and Mr Parkhouse had the pleasure of taking 36 children from the Year 5 and 6 choir to sing at the world famous O2 Arena for one of the amazing “Young Voices” concerts. Months of hard work and preparation meant the children had learnt the music, the words and the dance moves and could really enjoy being a part of the event. They joined together with other school choirs to make a huge choir of 8781 children, with a band of professional musicians accompanying them and getting to sing alongside guest performers Natalie Williams, Nandie Bushell, MC Grammar and dance group Urban Strides. The group was an absolute credit to Elmwood Junior School and helped to make sure that all the adults on the trip had a fantastic time as well as enjoying an experience of a lifetime and making their parents, family and teachers very proud.





## Key dates for your diary Spring 2024

Monday 19th February—INSET Day  
Tuesday 20th February—First Day of half term  
Wednesday 21st February—School Choir at Fairfield Halls  
Wednesday 28th February—Spanish Workshops Day  
Monday 4th March—Start of Book week  
Wednesday 6th March—School Choir at Fairfield Halls  
Wednesday and Thursday 13th & 14th March—Parents Evening  
Wednesday 20th March—Y5 Trip to Hampton Court  
Friday 22nd March—Y5 Trip to Hampton Court  
Wednesday 27th March—Book Wagon Fair  
Thursday 29th March—Last Day of term—school closes at 13:30.

## The History of Elmwood—1972!!

### The colourful sound of Elmwood's music goes on TV

IT LOOKS like just an ordinary rehearsal of the steel band which has been formed at Elmwood Junior School—but there is one major difference.

It has something to do with a man in earphones sitting in a corner of the school hall in a chair built for a nine year old.

He is not happy but his mood has nothing to do with his precarious position. There is a howl coming through those earphones which is telling him quite clearly that the time has come to move.

If you asked him what anyone has been saying for the past three hours he could not tell you.

He is locked into a world of sound, and it is his job

to make sure that only the noises he wants are actually recorded.

At the moment it is the hollow ring of conversation bouncing around the empty hall which is worrying him and the other members of the B.B.C. camera crew which has come to film the school's now famous steel band.

#### Infectious

By 11.30 a.m. they have recorded all they need of the boys and girls of mixed complexions playing that infectious style of music which conjures up images of tropical Trinidadian beaches and colourfully costumed laughing people.

Since early morning the crew has been putting the eight children — chosen from a much larger group

to appear on the television programme "Nationwide"—through rehearsals of mock rehearsals and then filming them.

The children do takes and retakes under hot air lights, among the paraphernalia of television filming, with all the cool and patience of professionals.

After all, they have had television cameras pointing at them before — for a religious Sunday evening programme with representatives from other schools, from Croydon Parish Church.

Even after three hours, when the final indoor takes are done, the crew members are still tapping their feet to the exotic and seductive rhythms which fill the hall and overflow into the corridors and classrooms.

No sound is allowed in, though, and a teacher patrols the corridor outside. You cannot mix the magic of the West Indies with the clatter of school meals arriving down the corridor.

There are, in fact, two sets of recordings being done — one by the B.B.C. and another by a journalist from Radio 610 (pronounced six-one-0) of Trinidad.

He is Mr Alfred Aguiton, here on a three-month overseas staff training course. He will be presenting the programme he eventually edits as a final project at the end of the course.

It is all about steel bands and he plans to call it "From Garbage Cans to Bach."

#### Interviews

Three of the eight children are selected to be interviewed, and the reporter moves in, chatting first to the children in general and then giving them some idea of what questions she is going to ask.

On the strip of green in front of the school in Lodge Road the interviews begin — with Russell Henderson, the band's tutor, with Mrs E. M. French, the headmistress,





