

ELMWOOD JUNIORS NEWSLETTER

March 2024



Dear Parents and Carers

We have already come to the end of another term. I would like to extend, as always, a huge thank you for all your support. This term we had an artist paint a mural in our school hall to represent the Elmwood 10 values. The artist had first met with our Elmwood Ambassadors to elicit their views. Then, over the course of a week, she slowly created this mural. The children and teachers are delighted with the final product. I'm sure you'll agree it brightens up our hall!



This mural represents something so much more important about what we believe here at Elmwood – that with everything we do we wish to develop and encourage your children to demonstrate these values in all of their lives from now until they reach their senior years. This month we have been specifically looking at the value of resilience. A skill so important for your child's development. Life will never be easy but if the children can grasp that they should keep going, never give up, and realise that it is in the challenges and difficulties of life that make us grow stronger and more able to live to our fullest potential.

We hope that you and your family have a fantastic Easter Holiday break and we look forward to receiving the children again on Monday 15th April.

Kind regards

Mr Marston

Year 3

Entry Point - Inventions that changed the world

To start our new topic 'Inventions that changed the world' and ignite the children's curiosity about different inventions, we had an inventions morning where children were given the opportunity to investigate and explore various inventions throughout history. From photo slides to quirky, old telephones, the children were encouraged to wonder what each item was used for and great discussions were had. They then placed the inventions in order on a timeline, some inventions dating as far back as the Stone Age times!

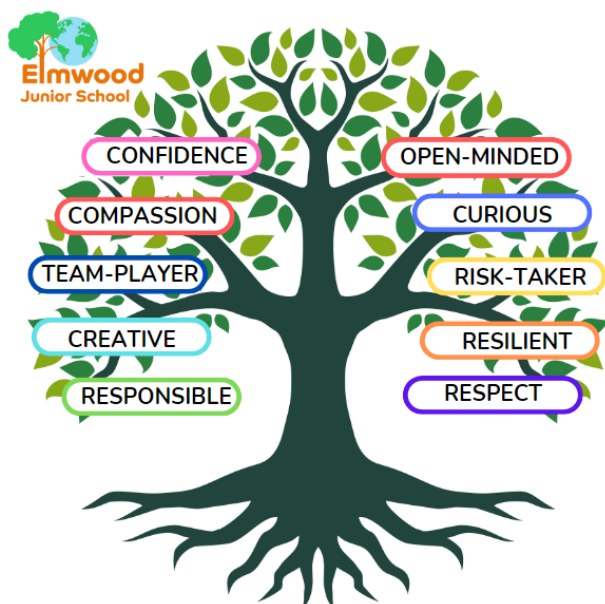


Swimming

This term, the children completed their swimming lessons. It was wonderful to see them develop in their skills as well as their confidence within the water. They were able to practise breathing underwater, blowing bubbles, floating and practising a few strokes. Well done to all the year 3s for being such risk takers in the pool!

DT - Micro bits

In our DT lessons this term, we have been researching one of the more recent inventions of our times, wearable technology. After doing research on fitness trackers, headphones, step counters and smart watches, the children then used this knowledge to invent their own piece of wearable technology. Children learnt to write a program that initiates a flashing LED panel, or another pattern, on the virtual micro:bit when a button is pressed, they were able to identify errors through testing and then created their design and evaluated it.



2024 Attendance Awards

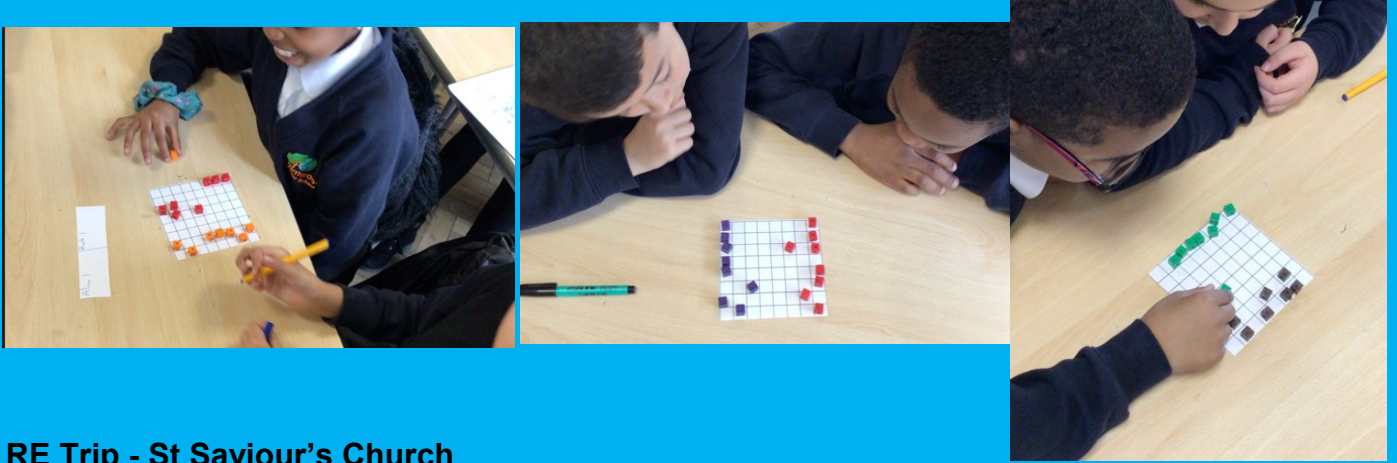
CONGRATULATIONS!

A big congratulations to 4R who achieved 100% attendance for an entire week this half term!

Year 4

Entry point - Our Greek Odyssey

To kick start our new theme this half term, we immersed the pupils in different areas of Greek culture, including: learning an Ancient Greek maths game, hearing and saying some common words in Greek and listening to a famous Greek story. The children enjoyed imagining what life was like for the Ancient Greeks which got them excited about the work ahead!



RE Trip - St Saviour's Church

As part of learning about the Christian Easter story, the pupils visited a local church, armed with questions to help them answer their enquiry question for this half term - 'How and why do Christians celebrate the Easter period?'. The pupils enjoyed seeing the interior of the church, as well as the special Easter decorations and speaking to the pastor about the events leading up to Easter Sunday.



**"A SHIP IN HARBOUR IS SAFE –
BUT THAT IS NOT WHAT SHIPS
ARE BUILT FOR."**

– John A. Shedd

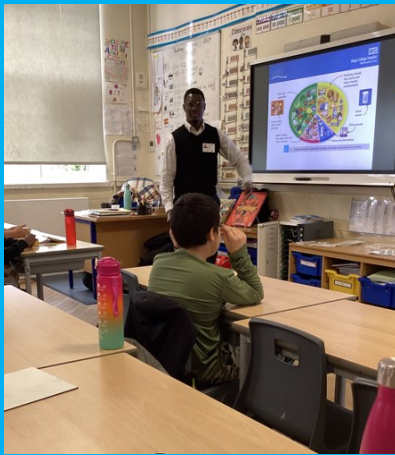


Adventure story-writing

As part of our theme this half term, the children have been reading an adaptation of 'The Odyssey' by Gillian Cross. This exciting tale has kept the children entertained and they have been eager to hear each lesson about the next twist and turn in the story. They have worked towards writing a narrative adventure story using 'The Odyssey' as inspiration, creating their own hero, monster and quest to complete. We have been particularly impressed with the children's resilience in writing a complex story, applying everything they have learnt so far while keeping the plot interesting for the reader.

Oral Health Workshops

This half term, year 4 were lucky enough to be visited by a dentist from King's College Hospital. During the session, the children were taught about the importance of dental hygiene, the nutritional value of different snacks and how to keep teeth clean and healthy! This tied in well with our Science topic this half term, allowing them to ask questions that deepened their understanding and learning.



**EASTER
COMPETITION**



22/03 to 21/04



Year 5

Hampton Court Trip

In our History lessons in Year 5, we have been learning all about the Tudors, so what better way to learn even more about the Tudors than to visit Henry VIII's very own home - Hampton Court Palace. Hampton Court was seriously impressive! We got to: see Henry VIII's apartments, explore the beautiful gardens, try and find our way out of a Tudor Maze, see the River Thames, and to top it all off take part in a workshop called 'Jobs in Court'. In the workshop we learnt all about the jobs the Tudors would have done in Hampton Court to keep the palace running. Did you know, by the age of 10, the Tudors would definitely have had us working!



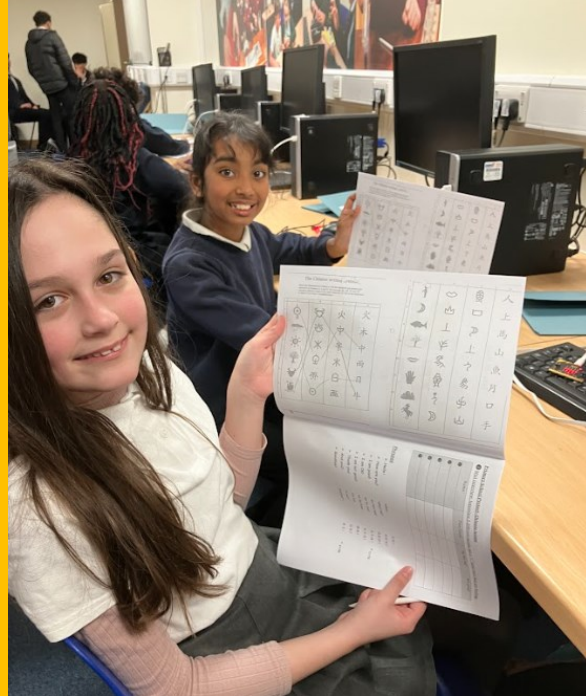
All things are difficult
before they are easy.

Thomas Fuller

@austonomy

Whitgift Project

This half term, thirty pupils in Year 5 had an amazing opportunity to spend the week at Whitgift School as part of the Whitgift Primary Project. As part of the project we got to take part in some super exciting lessons! In Computing we learnt how to program using Micro Bit and how to make movies. We also had some Chinese lessons where we learnt Mandarin, and took part in Science Experiments using the science labs at Whitgift.



English - Macbeth

In our English lessons in Year 5, we have been learning about one of Shakespeare's most famous plays - Macbeth. We really enjoyed all the twists and turns of the plot. Here are some pictures of us performing one of the poems from the play - The Witches chant - as they cast a spell on Macbeth. We are sure you may have heard it before. The most famous line of the poem is "Double, double toil and trouble; Fire burn and cauldron bubble."



Year 6

English - entry points

To start our theme of Migration, we looked at a comparison between England and the Caribbean, linking to our new book: *The Windrush Child*.



We also had some multilingual staff members speaking in their mother tongue to confuse our Year 6 children, immersing them in the confusion, anxiety and uncertainty of migrants when they arrive to a new country, linking to another of our books: *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan.

Key dates for your diary Summer 2024

- 23rd April 4K & 4Ba Trip to National History Museum
- 24th April 4R & 4BL Trip to National History Museum
- Week beginning 13th May Year 6 SATs
- 16th May Scholastics Book Fair
- 17th May PTA Film Night
- 20th May Year 6 swimming starts at Trinity
- 23rd May High Ashurst Parents Evening
- 24th May Legacy fundraising event

Year 6

Art

We are looking at Kehinde Wiley for our Migration theme, creating our own prints drawing inspiration from Wiley's work as well as William Morris.

Book Week

The theme for this year's Book Week was the night, inspired by Katrina Wolf's: *The Insomniacs*. The children were read the book in assembly and completed a writing task about coming to school at night. There were then various activities during the week, including: dressing up in pyjamas and reading in the dark, reading with the Infants, taking a book home to gift to the community and watching the Big Footy and Booky Quiz.

In Year 6, we had the opportunity to read with children in Year 3, take part in the book giveaway as well as use the hall as a quiet space to help immerse ourselves in the theme for this year's Book Week: reading at night. Hopefully this has encouraged our year group to read more at home.



African Dance workshop

On Wednesday 6th March, Year 6 were lucky enough to be visited by an African dance workshop. Each class was immersed into a different culture, learning chants and new ways of expressing themselves through music and dance. It was an extremely enjoyable day for all of us.



PE and Sports events

In PE this half term, we've been learning the skills needed to play basketball. The children focussed on skills such as dribbling and shooting and then had the chance to apply these skills in a competitive setting.



This half term the Elmwood Netball team went to Royal Russell School to compete in a tournament against 14 other Croydon schools. Our team won 5 out of 6 of their matches landing them in the finals. We then went on to win our finals match, having scored our winning goal on the final whistle! Our team were each awarded with a gold medal and certificate for coming first

MIP roll call for March

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

MIP Hall of Fame - March 2024

Who is your Most Improved Person - This term?

3S	3B	3C	3R
Destiny	Jasmine	Abdullah	Mohammad Ahmed
4BI	4Ba	4R	4K
Kemarie	Laniyah	Sky	Yasemin
5F	5S	5A	5DJ
Araf	Kian	Zadok	Kaleem
6H	6P	6F	6S
Rafael	Raihan	Zohra	Ibrahim

Music



On Wednesday 6th March, 30 children from Upper School Choir represented Elmwood in the Croydon Schools Music Association Junior Choir. They joined with children from other Junior schools across Croydon to create a choir of over 500 children. They showed the values of resilience (in working so hard at all the rehearsals to learn the songs and the words off by heart), teamwork (blending their voices together), creativity (making a joyful sound) and confidence (performing to such a large audience). Mrs Smith and Mr Parkhouse were also very proud of their behaviour and respect on the rehearsal trips and at the evening concert. One of our pupils, Omar, also successfully auditioned to sing a solo, one of just 4 children from the whole choir to be chosen, and did a fabulous job.



Well done to all of choir for their hard work and beautiful sound, and thank you to all the parents for their support too.