



## October 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

### MacMillan Coffee Morning Harvest Festival



Thank you all very much for your kind donations for our Harvest Festival and MacMillan Coffee Morning. Big thanks to Heidi and her team for leading an excellent assembly. Afterwards we held a MacMillan coffee morning staffed by students which was very successful. We always try to think of helping others in our work at Mary Elliot, all donations were given to our local food bank.

### Friends of Mary Elliot

Friends of Mary Elliot (FOME) have been very busy on our behalf. Last week Vicky and Anita from FOME came to our Friday Assembly to present us with a very large cheque for £1400! Each class can now have £100 to spend as they wish on resources, games and motivators which will do so much to help us in our work with your young people. Friends are always looking for helpers at events; do come and join in. Details are on the website!

### Walsall 10k – News from Martyn, School driver:

*For those of you not on Friends of Mary Elliot Facebook page. Just to let you know Vicky, Sheryl, my wife Colleen and I completed the Walsall Rotary 10K run yesterday to raise some money to support families suffering with leukaemia and Friends Of Mary Elliot (FOME).*

*Marie has been coordinating sponsorship within the school. Thank you to all those who have sponsored the team for their run.*

*I completed the course in 57 minutes which was a personal best so I was happy with that and actually came 7th in my category.*

*My wife Colleen beat me by some distance in 50 minutes, came 1st in her category and 5th female overall. Both Sheryl and Vicky were amazing in tricky conditions finishing in just over an hour. I must mention Sheryl's sprint towards the finishing line which was brilliant.*

*Martyn*

Well done Martyn, Colleen, Sheryl, Vicky and FOME , they raised **£200!**

### WOW Moments

We always like to share significant moments in our children's lives with a WOW moment, celebrated in staff meetings and assembly. D and J both had a major WOW moment at horse-riding and both rode a horse for the first time. This is a major breakthrough for J as this is the 3rd year he has been going! Because of this, his class staff and I would really like them to continue to go horse riding to see if we can build on this whilst they are still motivated! – Sam Faulkner



## **Key Stage 5 - Work Experience – News from students.**

Every Tuesday KS5 SLD 1 has an amazing opportunity to do work experience at The Craft Barns at Chasewater. The Barns have a small warehouse where we sort out all the different stock such as buttons, cards, patterns and lots of other craft items. We also get the opportunity to work in their small shop selling items to the general public. Thanks to all staff that support our students here, the feedback has been very impressive!

## **Meet the Governors**

Hi, my name is Teresa Tunnell and I'm Co-Chair of Governors of our Federation together with Lesley Foster. Previously I chaired the Governing Body at Mary Elliot.



I started as a parent governor, about fourteen years ago, at Oakwood School while my son was there and then carried on as governor at Mary Elliot when my son moved over. He left Mary Elliot last year and I became Chair of Governors. Over the years I have become increasingly involved in education, health and social care. I also sit on the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee. I'm a member of FACE Walsall, our parent carer forum. I'm an advisory board member of Healthwatch Walsall and a member of the Carer User Support Partnership. As a mother of a young adult with a profound learning disability and autism I am very passionate about provision and opportunities for all children and young people in Walsall with SEND.

Caring for my disabled son has meant that I had to give up work as a computer software engineer. However, since my son went away to residential college last year, I am kept very busy with all the voluntary work that I do.

I'm often at school as I try to attend as many events as I can and I'm a member of Friends of Mary Elliot. So if you bump into me, I'm happy for a chat or you can contact me through the school.

## **Parents' Evening – 8<sup>th</sup> November**

Our first school parents' evening of the year is a key point for you to come in and discuss progress with your child's class teacher, and to discuss how they have settled into the new term. Letters have gone out with booking times so please do make an appointment to share success, WOW moments or discuss any issues that you may have. Please make an appointment with your class teacher if you have not already done so.



## Halloween Disco Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November



We will finish our half term with a Halloween disco for students in school with prizes for the scariest mask and costume.

Please send in £1 donation for this event, we hope to have lots of fun – a word of warning though, we do not wish to encourage the use of face paints for this because of the risk of allergic reaction, so do take care!

### **Safeguarding updates – Sharon Fogarty (Interim Designated Leader for Safeguarding)**

Keep a look out for amendments to the School Child Protection policy following changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) which will be available to read soon – copies will be on the website and also in reception.

All staff have had recent training to be alert for concerns around sexual violence in schools - If parents wish to have further information on this or to discuss any issues, then please contact , please contact Sharon Fogarty on the school number.

Please send in coats now the cold weather is on the way so we can ensure your son or daughter can go out safely during lunchtime.

### **School Reception**

Thank you to all parents for your help and support in keeping the school reception area clear at the start and at the end of the day. We have a very small number of young people who find transition at these busy times very difficult and need a clear and safe pathway to their transport home. We will need to keep a clear access free to allow them to their bus, car or taxi safely and not put parents or students at risk – thank you again for this.

**Clive Padgett**

**Interim Headteacher**

Don't Forget.....



**Mary Elliot School invites you to an evening with:**



**“Sgt. White” -Recruiting men for the War 1914.**

**Wednesday 7th November 2018**

**At Mary Elliot School, Leamore Lane, WS2 7 NR**

**Refreshments from 7.00 pm**

**“Sgt. White” will begin at 7.45 pm**

**Tickets £10**

***All proceeds from this event will support the Students' Prom Day in the summer***

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2018**

<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Halloween Day – students dress up for Halloween - £1 donation</b>
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Inset day – staff ONLY in school, pupils do not attend</b>
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Half term</b>
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Term begins again at usual time</b>
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>School Photographs PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE</b>
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Parents' Evening – book your appointment!</b>
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>End of term – finish usual time for the Christmas Holiday</b>