

School Council Assembly Minutes – February 2nd 2015

Location: In the church

Who was present: Whole school

Chair: Carrick

Secretary: Willow

School councillors were asked to inform the classes of the three questions:

1. Do you feel safe at school?
2. How can we improve the school for everyone?

An assembly was called so the full school council (all children) could debate these issues. Our findings were as follows:

➤ **Safety around the School**

Tom W: thought the gates needed locks

Response from the children: There were two members of staff on duty at breaks and when people came close (eg. walked along the path towards the church) the staff would talk to the people and check who they were so the children felt safe. Year 2 children thought the locks might stop children from getting out of school in a rush and they would feel scared if everything was locked up. Olivia said there were always lots of staff around and that she felt very safe – others agreed. The full council decided that the children felt safe with the gates and the locks that we have.

Headteacher's Actions

Mrs Cole agreed that safety around the school could be improved. Some people were able to open the side gate leading to the reception / year 1 class by putting their hands through the slats and opening the gate from the inside.

Mrs Cole asked Mr Seston to put up some boards to prevent this from happening. Mr Seston also blocked up the slats on the gate by the year 2 classroom.

Mr Seston also erected a fence at the back of the school by the cycling shed. This work was completed on Monday 30th March, 2015.

Harry: some of the boundaries were wobbly

Response from the children: The fence needed fixing. School council would ask Mrs Cole about getting the fences fixed. Other children said that it wouldn't look good to people who came to our school. Agreed to speak to Mrs Cole.

Headteacher's Actions

Mrs Cole asked Mr Seston to fix the fence and several posts so that they did not wobble. This work was completed on Monday 30th March, 2015.

Mrs Cole has noticed that some of the posts in the Infants' playground are also wobbly. Mrs Cole asked Mr Seston if he could fix these also. Mr Seston said he would be able to do the work soon.

Florence: Some children were pushing others round the side of the Lower Juniors class as they went into class in the mornings and break times. She suggested a member of staff to be present. Mrs Wakefield agreed that the staff could be present. School councillors asked the children what they could do to help solve this problem. The children agreed that if they were thoughtful they would stop pushing and their behaviour would improve.

Headteacher's Actions

Mrs Cole agreed to stand at the corner some mornings and remind the children to walk to class. Mrs Cole to ask the children if there is anymore pushing and shoving on the mornings when she is not present. Mrs Wakefield to remind the children to think of others and be kind during regular PSHCE lessons.

Caleb: Was worried about falling off the climbing frame.

Response from the children: If you go on the climbing frame then you are responsible for yourself. Don't do things that you think will hurt you. We don't want to stop people from going there as many people have fun on it. Agreed by the whole school that people had to make sensible choices on the frame.

➤ Improvements that could be made to the school

Adam: Painting the classrooms

Response: Mrs Wakefield explained that the classrooms were decorated on a rolling programme. Mrs Alexander's classroom was decorated last so then it would be another class the following year and so on. The children were pleased that there was a programme. Two children asked if they (the children) could be involved in choosing the colour scheme. Mrs Wakefield said that would be a brilliant idea and would ask the school councillors to put that forward to Mrs Cole for discussion.

Mrs Cole's response: Mrs Cole was pleased that the children cared about their school and how their school looked. She agreed that classrooms always looked much better after they have been decorated. Mrs Cole to look at the school's budget to see how much school can afford to decorate and will consult the school council in due course.

Elizabeth: Hot meals for all the children

Response: Mrs Wakefield said this might be a possibility soon. There were plans to alter the church and we might have a kitchen and eating area provided there. At the moment there was no space in the school where the whole school could eat hot meals. Mrs Wakefield explained that the government only pays for the children in Key Stage 1 to have free hot meals.

Mrs Cole's response: Mrs Cole thinks it is very important that all children eat healthy meals and that one day it might indeed be possible for all the children in the school to have a hot meal at lunchtime. She thinks the church plans are a wonderful idea and the vicar Peter Waterson keeps her updated on any news.

Kate: Could we have a school pet?

Response: School councillors are to ask Mrs Cole about her thoughts on that.

Mrs Cole's response: Keeping a pet at school is quite a big responsibility and there might be some problems finding a home for the pet every weekend and school holiday. The pet might be a bit lonely in the evenings too once all the children and staff have gone home. However, Mrs Cole would be interested to hear your ideas. What sort of pet would you like? Who would look after it? Who would buy the food?

Mrs Cole is very pleased that the children will be visiting Field Farm and the Aston Rowant Nature Reserve next term, where they will learn all about different types of animals. She is also very pleased that children in year 2 are learning all about the life cycle of a butterfly and is looking forward to seeing the caterpillars turn into butterflies. The Infants are also keeping eggs in an incubator in their classroom and it won't be long before they hatch and we will have some chicks at school.

Olivia: Warmer cloakrooms

Response: The children discussed how cold it was in the cloakrooms off the Lower Juniors' class. Some pointed out that the doors were left open most of the time. The children agreed to try and keep them closed to help keep in the heat. The school councillors said they would check that the doors were closed. House captains were also to check. If this improved but the heat did not then the children would think about speaking to Mrs Cole about getting heaters.

Mrs Cole's response: She thought it was an excellent idea that the children could check that the doors were closed and suggested the House Captains draw up a rota to monitor this so that it wasn't left to the same person having to check every day.

Thomas and Stuart: More playground equipment

Response: Some children felt there was a lot of equipment.

Mrs Cole's response: Mrs Cole thinks Lewknor is the best school and that's partly because the children play so well with each other at playtimes. She is also very pleased to see the children enjoy Fun and Games every week and enjoys watching the children have fun in the morning Wake Up, Shake Up sessions.

Mrs Cole also thinks that school has bought a lot of new PE equipment recently but we were also able to put in an order for new playground equipment after the children raised a lot of money for the Young Enterprise Scheme. Well done to all our young entrepreneurs.

We ran out of time to discuss any other matters. These issues are to be carried forward to the next whole school council meeting.

Next date: 25th March