

School Council Meeting Minutes - 3rd October 2018

- Introductions- Counsellor Pat Seaman

The children introduced themselves to Cllr Pat and she spoke to the children about her role and the children's role as school councillors were similar only that she has to listen to the worries and concerns of the community and try to help find a solution. She explained that she has a special badge and role as a counsellor but also works for the children in her role as a school governor and wants to make sure the children in school are happy. She asked if the children were happy and they said yes.

Cllr Pat asked what the school council do. The children said, help people solve problems, be good role models, see how we can improve the school and raise - money for charities and the school. She asked how we make decisions and the children say with a class vote.

Cllr Pat Seaman explained that 58 counsellors come together within Coventry to discuss issues and make decisions through voting. She shared that everyone has a right to vote and everyone's vote is counted and you have to agree with the final decision even if it is not what you voted for because this is what is fair.

She asked the children about our MacMillan fundraising event and how the children feel. The children shared that they felt proud of themselves and that they know they can make a difference and help people. Cllr Pat Seaman said that she feels that way when she helps people in the community.

Cllr Pat shared that she would try to join us on our visit to the Council House and then the children asked her questions. These included

- What things do you discuss and vote on? Cllr Pat shared that she discusses how government money is spent, if new houses are built or new schools or hospitals.
- Why aren't there anymore lollipop ladies? Cllr Pat explained that the government are giving the council less and less money therefore every year more and more difficult decisions have to be made, but we all have to agree and vote on where the money should go. Unfortunately the money for lollipop ladies had to be stopped but schools can employ their own members of staff to help children cross the road.
- Are you responsible for blocking websites in school? Cllr Pat explained that she is a cabinet member for children and young people and that she has a special job to make sure that children are safe and well looked after across the whole city. She explained the term 'safeguarding' and how it was important that the children be protected from anything which is not suitable.
- Do you help people who are homeless? Cllr Pat explained that only yesterday she had been to a big meeting about homelessness. She explained about the role of the Salvation Army and said that there are enough beds for all of the homeless people but that some people choose not to go and stay there.

Cllr Pat then explained about the City of culture bid for 2021 and asked if the school council could possibly be involved in some events.

The children thanked Cllr Pat for her time and she thanked the children for sharing their experiences and asking such wonderful questions.

All other agenda moved forward due to time.

- Mac Millan Coffee Morning

How much did we raise?

Who would be happy to write a 'Thank you' letters to the companies who donated money or cakes for the cake sale?

- Mental Health Day (11th October) – have children held their votes? Miss Wilson e mail class teachers regarding freeing up 20 minutes of the day to discuss ways to have a healthy body and a healthy mind.
- Halloween – Pumpkin carving. Children to bring in their pumpkins in from home. (31st October).

Chn who would be prepared to meet with Mr Black/ Miss Collins to ask if this can go ahead and explain what we would like to do.

Is it a competition? What are the prizes?

Who could we invite to judge?

Can children take their pumpkins home at the end of the day?

Year 5 children to speak with Miss Collins to ask her to put this in the school newsletter.

AOB

Next Meeting – 10th October 2018