

Notes from the Playground and Green Team Visits Prior to the FGB Meeting on 12th July 2018.

The session opened at 6.30pm.

James Passmore welcomed the children from the Playground and Green Teams to the meeting.

The Governors introduced themselves to the children.

Vicki Wilson lead the children in their updates.

The Playground Team

The children reported that work has been taking place on the lunchtime playground play boxes and what goes into them. The contents change regularly, the team members are responsible for sorting them out and re-stocking them. The children reported that "Dan The Skipping Man" had visited school and had helped encourage people to use the skipping ropes that were not often used.

A number of the team have attended a training course which has helped them learn new methods of how to make games fair and deal with arguments.

The team have heard from class reps about what the children in each class would like, and delivered an assembly to introduce themselves to the school, so everyone would know who they were and what the team did.

The team have also written letters to local businesses requesting donations for the play boxes.

James Hirst asked if they had any responses to their letters. The children responded that they had some, but that they would like to try again in the next school year. They would ideally like items that would be suitable for all year groups, particularly for quieter play such as books, Lego and outside games such as Jenga or skittles, and dressing up outfits for the stage.

Joan Cocker asked the children how many of them went on the training courses. They replied that two of them had gone, and that there were plans to go again next year, hopefully to develop leading skills. They explained that they got new ideas for games, as well as learning about how to stop arguments & encourage children to play fairly. They went with children from other schools and got ideas from them too. They were able to try out the games and had the opportunity to feedback their ideas and improvements.

JC enquired about Quiet Club which she understands is normally held inside. The children explained that Quiet Club was available for children who may prefer to play quietly, or for children who need an opportunity to calm down after a lot of active play. At the moment to have it inside it is MDSA dependant. If none are available it is usually just drawing outside, which doesn't interest very many. The Playground Team would like to extend the

club so that more quiet play can happen outside and that children can still get fresh air.

Katie Brown asked equipment what is the most popular. The children replied that Hula Hoops are always in high demand.

Daisy Brown asked if the team notice when people are left out or have fallen out, and if dealing with those situations is part of their roles. The children responded that it is but only partially. Most children try to deal with it independently, but they tend to approach MSDAs if things cannot be resolved. The children referred to the Friendship Stop, which is a bench that children can sit on if they are looking for someone to play with, however it hasn't really been used for the past couple of years. VW asked if they thought it would be a good idea to relaunch it in the new school year, with a bit of training for the Playground Team. The children agreed that it would be a good idea.

KB asked if the current team will all continue or are there plans to change the team. VW explained that hopefully the current team members will stay as it gives the rest of the school consistency and continuity. There will be a couple of vacancies next year as the current Year 6s will be leaving.

JP asked the team, if you could wave a magic wand what you like to see or improve in the playground?

The children would like the fitness trail extended, the original one was reduced due to the Trinity class building.

Other ideas included a higher fence to stop balls from going over it, a ball wall, the reinstatement of the basketball hoop and an endless supply of balls!

The children requested that more than one class be allowed to play football at one time, and also that classes had multiple days to play too.

The team would also like to reduce the number of accidents that happen too. They are not sure how at the moment as most happen due to collisions. Ideally, they would like to expand the playground and field.

Ursula Scott informed the Governors that she had received, from Mr Lambert, certificates for the Sports Leaders who attended the training sessions in September and January. She explained it is a recognised qualification that they can carry forward to secondary school. Danny and Ashley were presented their certificates by Tom Whittingham and given a round of applause by the Governors.

JP thanked the Playground Team.

The Green Team then gave their report.

They explained that they had recently changed their name from the Eco Council to the Green Team, in order for the children to better understand what they did.

Currently there are two members per year group, per class and that the team has two extra children who are Captains.

The team have been busy doing eco checks around the school at lunchtimes – looking at electricity, water, classroom and corridor tidiness, and recycling. Points are awarded and the classroom that gets the most points at the end of the week, receives either Eddie the Eco or Tidy Tigger to display in their classroom, as well as the congratulations of the school. The teddies are handed out as a motivational tool

The team have also been looking at mini beasts in and around the school. They took a sample to see what was present, and how many of each creature was there was. They also measured the bugs they had found. DB asked the children what they had found and if they thought it was a good thing to have lots of bugs. The children reported that they had discovered earwigs, woodlice, worms and ants amongst others. They felt having lots of worms and invertebrates was a good thing as it shows we have a healthy field.

They explained that there has been a national “What’s Under Our Feet?” campaign organised by the British Trust of Ornithology (BTO), have been asking schools to take part three times a year in autumn, spring and summer. They provide posters, stickers, worksheets and lots of other resources for free.

They BTO want children to look at the number of mini beasts in the ground and the number of birds in the area, and whether what we’ve got under our feet correlates with the bird types we have.

JC asked if they do the counts just at lunch time or other time. Mrs Griffiths explained they have to try and fit it in amongst lessons, which has been tricky, but the team have been very proactive about carrying out activities and have carried lots out independently.

JH enquired if there was anywhere in school where people can see what they have been up to and their findings. The children explained that they have a display board where they put up posters and display their certificates. They upload their findings and get certificates from the BTO.

As part of a national Waste Week campaign, organised by The Pod, who are funded by EDF, the Green team looked at what parts of our rubbish could be recycled into other things. The children then asked the Governors questions about what could be made from recycled yoghurt pots and old tyres. Lots of interesting facts about recycling and waste were given by the children.

Mrs Griffiths added that EDF ran another campaign called Switch Off Fortnight and the Green Team would be taking part in that next.

DB asked if there was anything the Governors could put in to encourage the mini beasts at school. The children explained that a bug “hotel” has recently been created and if it is successful they would like to extend it.

VW asked if the Green Team will put up information about new items that can now be recycled such as yoghurt pots. The Green Team plan to update their board and encourage pupils to put their yoghurt pots in the recycling bin rather than the normal rubbish.

JP asked the team how “green” SBPS is and how good are we at recycling. The team responded that Year 6 are generally best at recycling. Y2 tend to have the tidiest corridor.

JP asked if we could do anything better as a whole school. The team reported that they often find Smart boards and laptops left on during lunchtimes. And it was suggested that on sunny days we don’t need all the lights on the classrooms.

Another suggestion was having a recycling area in the playground, where people can bring in materials such as boxes or cardboard tubes and children can make things from them. It was agreed this was a really good idea. JC suggested putting it near the Quiet Club area so that junk modelling could be included in their activities.

The team also felt that litter picking sessions needed to increase.

US issued a challenge for the Green Team. She explained that the school spends lots of money on toilet paper and hand towels, and that we get through a large amount of both each year. She would really like to reduce the cost and the amount of toilet paper and hand towels used next year and would like the Green Team to help. They agreed to think of ideas when they come back in September.

JP thanked the Green Team and all the children for attending the meeting and for their comprehensive and informative updates.

The children left at 7.10pm.