

School Council Newsletter – March 2017



Who we are:

Brodie, Lottie, Eve, Hamish, Archie, Zoe, Ollie, Madison, Bertie, Scarlet, Edward, Sophie, Max, Anna, Raj and Eva.

What is school council and what do we do?

The purpose of School Council is to give us an opportunity to have our say in how Bishops Down School is run.

Each September everyone is given the opportunity to present their ideas for School Council, to the rest of the class, and two representatives from each KS2 class are voted in. We have joint Chair (Brodie and Hamish) a Secretary (Eve) and Treasurer (Lottie); they help to keep the meetings on track, record what has been discussed and keep a record of any finance.

Our role is to represent the views of others in our classes and to discuss ways in which to improve our school. Senior managers and governors take our views and opinions very seriously and listen to what we have to say. Our noticeboard is just inside the entrance hall, where we put all our recent news.

School Council Representatives benefit from being a member by learning skills such as negotiation, communication, responsibility and improved self-confidence; and by having lots of fun too!

We meet for half an hour most Wednesdays at 12.30, and show our commitment by giving up part of our lunch break to attend. Mrs Magee is present, as the School Council leader, and we meet to discuss issues such as playground equipment, lunch hall behaviour and ideas for fundraising. We make things happen!

What we have done recently

MP Greg Clark Visit

On Friday 11th November 2016 our local MP Greg Clark visited Bishops Down to meet School Council, to discuss British values and the way a democracy works. On arrival he was given a tour of the school and was then treated to a school dinner of fish and chips by Independent Catering. He ate this with the representatives of school council, who had the opportunity to ask and discuss some questions they had prepared about the Parliament and the local government.

After lunch he was invited to attend a whole school assembly in which he talked about a democracy and conducted a lively discussion about homework. We were then given the opportunity to put our views forward and vote either for keeping homework or not. We voted the same way they do in the Houses of Parliament, by the sheep pen method. No surprises what the outcome was!

Visit to the Houses of Parliament

On 12th December 2016, School Council went to the Houses of Parliament to learn about democracy and British values. We learnt lots of interesting things, and important processes that our country goes through to create things like a new law.

We got off the train at Charing Cross and headed to Trafalgar Square where we climbed Nelson's Column and took a couple of photos with the lions. We stopped off where they did the horse guard's parade and had a little look at Downing Street. We also walked past the Cenotaph war memorial.

Our guide, Damien, met us at the Houses of Parliament. We collected our passes and went through security. We went to the House of Lords which had red seats and the Queen's throne. The House of Commons has green seats, but the Queen is not allowed to go in there. We were taken downstairs to a secret chapel underneath the building and saw the cupboard where a suffragette hid. We then went into an interactive room where we used iPads to learn about past kings and prime ministers. Finally, we went into Westminster Hall, which is the oldest part of the building. We then had lunch and went to the gift shop.

It was an amazing experience and we learned a lot about democracy. We now know how the Houses of Parliament is run!



Independent Catering visit

On Wednesday 25th January 2017 Joanne Grey came to visit to discuss our recent feedback survey for school lunches. She explained why the menu was structured as it is, and why healthy meals had to be included. She then asked what our favourite meals are and what we would like changed.

Mrs Grey took note of the suggestions and arranged another meeting when feedback can be given again on the food cooked by the new kitchen staff.



Pupil voice Questionnaire

Mrs Wilson attended our meeting on Wednesday 8th March 2017, with a questionnaire. It was about improving music at the school and she asked us lots of questions about how music could be made more enjoyable. We were given a questionnaire to take back and gather the opinions of everyone in our classes.

Toy Sale

We are currently organising a toy sale to raise money for the three charities we are supporting this year; Popenbury (Local), Great Ormond Street (national) and Water Aid (international). The date has been set for Tuesday 2nd May at 3.00pm and everyone will be invited to bring in any unwanted toys and games which we will be able to sell. We are busy organising information for the newsletter, posters and a PowerPoint assembly in which we can inform every one of our event. Keep your eyes peeled for posters going up around the school.