

School Council



Who we are:

Tao, Belle,
Amelia, Harry,
Sophia, Olivia,
Jaime, Jack,
Murphy, Saioa,
Bailey, Teddy,
Stefan, Emma

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 a Chair (Belle Ireland) and a Secretary (Tao Percalle); they help to keep the meetings on track and record what has been discussed.

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; there is also a suggestion box where children can post their ideas and views, which is looked at each week.

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 every Monday at 1.00, 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

Visit to the Houses of Parliament

On Thursday 28th April, School Council went on a trip; we 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. First of all we went sightseeing and saw some of what London has to give. We then went on to the Houses of Parliament where we went into the House of Commons and saw a debate in action, but unfortunately the Prime Minister was not there!

Then we went back to the education centre and started our own debate. First we were split into two teams, and thought of an issue that we could discuss. Then the other team asked lots of questions about our idea and a panel of judges decided which idea was the best.

Later we had our lunch and went to the gift shop where we could get a souvenir. After we caught the train back to the mini bus and came back to school. Thank you to Mrs Magee and Mrs Wilson for organising and taking us.



Interview for the new Deputy Head Teacher

On a Friday in April we had a very important job to do, and that was to have our own interview for the new Deputy Head Teacher at Bishops Down. We met the day before to think of relevant questions to ask, and which order we were going to ask them in. There were two candidates who we introduced ourselves to, asked our questions and listened carefully to the answers. After the interviews we were asked our opinion as to which candidate we preferred and why.

Lunchtime behaviour

We looked at the noise levels in the hall and tried to think of ways that it could be reduced. The old system of having traffic lights on the big screen was not working because some children were facing the wrong direction. We came up with the idea of purchasing some free standing traffic lights which could be displayed centrally in the hall where they could be seen by everyone. We researched the cost of this and found that it was affordable, and are in the process of raising money to purchase these lights.

Lunchtime reward

We were asked to think of new ideas to reward good behaviour during lunch. This is at present being discussed by each class and School Council are waiting for the response. Some of our ideas were: having extra time to play, playing with Lego during lunch break, 15 minutes on the i-Pad on a Friday afternoon. We discussed whether this should be a whole class, or individual reward.

Olympic torch

Mrs Tizzard has asked School Council to consider the design of our Olympic torch. This is an event at which all the local schools participate, and on an organised day our torch will be carried on foot to Langton Green School. Each school in Tunbridge Wells carries their torch to another local school, who keeps the torch. After some discussions we have come up with a few ideas which are now being considered for use by Mrs Tizzard.