



South Morningside Primary School

Pupil Council Meeting

Friday 23rd January 2015

Hut C

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Minutes and actions from previous meeting
3. Reading for Enjoyment Project
4. Annexe Playground
5. Playground progress update
6. Any other business
7. Date and place of next meeting.

Attendees:

	Present		Present		Present
3A Luke Fowler	✓	3B Anna Traynor	✓	3C James Alcock	✓
4A Carmen Sanchez	✓	4B Finlay MacDonald	✓	4C Ewan Tresize	✓
5A Fred Entwistle	✓	5B Patrick Milne	✓	5C Holly Sinclair	✓
6A Grace Alcock	✓	6B Charlotte Craig	✓	6C Anna Kidd	✓
7A Jack Hudson		7B Somina Dublin-Green	✓	P7C Nalifar Yazdanian	✓
Mrs Richmond	✓	Mrs Williams		Mrs Henderson	

1. Mrs Richmond welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Mrs Richmond discussed with Reps whether it would be more helpful if the minutes were emailed to class teachers or a copy popped in each teacher's tray. They decided that a paper copy would be more useful.
3. Mrs Richmond shared a Government Paper on Reading: the Next Steps - supporting higher standards in schools. She highlighted a couple of points:
 - *Reading for pleasure is not only important because it improves performance in reading tests; it has a much wider significance for children's education. Research shows that it brings benefits that help pupils achieve more across the whole curriculum. These include a broad vocabulary, text comprehension, grammar and general knowledge⁴⁰. Reading for pleasure has also been found to be linked to greater progress in spelling and mathematics skills. Recent longitudinal research found the impact of reading for pleasure on progress in vocabulary, arithmetic and spelling between the ages of 10 and 16 to be four times greater than the impact of having a parent with degree.*
 - *How often children read is likely to be linked with the number of books they read. Research by the National Literacy Trust has found an association between the number of books read per month and reading proficiency for 8-16 year olds⁴². This shows that more children exceeded the expected level of reading for their age as the number of books they read a month increased. Children who read even two or more books per month were less likely to be struggling readers. Those who read five books a month were almost twice as likely to be reading at a level beyond their age, compared with those who do not read any books at all.*
 - *As well as improving academic attainment, international evidence also suggests reading fiction for pleasure has social consequences. It has been shown to be associated with empathy and increased social support⁴³. One Canadian study found teenagers used reading for pleasure to help them make sense of the world, mature relationships and cultural identity.*
4. The Pupil Council discussed how much Reading for Enjoyment happens. It was agreed that for many children there are so many opportunities for children to enjoy that sometimes reading gets missed. The Pupil Council brainstormed some ideas for improving Reading for Enjoyment.

- To improve class libraries which are a bit tired and not inspiring - perhaps children could bring in their own recommended books - what about donating these to a younger class?
 - To hold a sponsored read-a-thon
 - To do something for World Book Day
 - To give prizes for reading
5. Mrs Richmond explained that the annexe playground toys had now arrived in school. The Primary two pupils were very grateful to the Pupil Council for choosing and selecting the new equipment. Playtimes at the Annexe are much better.

ACTION: Mrs Richmond to investigate whether the Pupil Council could go down to the annexe and share a playtime with them?

6. Mrs Richmond explained about the delay to the Playground Project. We have had to delay the installation of phase one while the scaffold is up to allow contractors to complete essential building work. It is hope that we will be back on track in the summer term.
7. Any other business:
Reps were asked to gather items for the next meeting
8. The next committee meeting was arranged for Friday 27th March at 11:45 in Hut B.

Actions:

- Mrs Richmond to share ideas for our Reading for Enjoyment Project at the next staff meeting
- Mrs Richmond to investigate whether the Pupil Council could join the annexe children for a play session