

Report of Edith Cavell Primary School Council to the Governing Body, July 3rd 2019

As we approach the end of another academic year, the School Council find, once again, that they have had a busy year being involved as the student voice. With seventeen children on the Council, ranging from Year 2 to 6 who were elected by their classmates back in September, this is the largest Council ever, and our first as a full Primary school. Badges were distributed at the first meeting with Mrs Shatford, and expectations of behaviour, respect and the need for confidentiality, on occasions, were discussed. Younger members of the Council were reassured when they knew that they would be supported and mentored by the older students.

Several of the students had previously served on the Council and, having enjoyed the experience the first time, Alfie, Agata and Harry were pleased to return bringing new ideas and confidence to meetings. Harry found that he enjoyed the second time around with "the extra responsibility of being a Year 6". All members made contributions in the meetings, even if they were sometimes shy and took time to develop their speaking skills. This confidence was displayed on June 20th, when the Council visited Livingstone Primary School to meet with their Council and the representatives from Priory Primary, to share experiences and the projects they had been involved with. Mrs Shatford was incredibly proud of all the children, but particularly the

youngest children, Aayan, Safurah, Teddy and Ravia who found their confident voice and spoke in detail about new play equipment (particularly Teddy, who gave a detailed account of how Abi and the rest of the Friends of Edith Cavell raise money to support the school community) and our on-going anti-littering poster campaign. Teddy said "I enjoyed it so much, that I will definitely do it again!"

All of the children were able to contribute, when asked by Mr Thornes (Head Teacher at Livingstone), about emotional well-being strategies at Edith Cavell, with Alfie talking excitedly about the sensory garden and sporting opportunities, Cayden sharing examples of reward times and Star of the Week and Emily sharing her enjoyment of gardening club where she helps to grow flowers, herbs and vegetables. Jimmy and Andrei were anxious about talking in front of a new audience but both managed to contribute to the information sharing. Jimmy felt "It was useful to magpie ideas with other schools." Diya and Harry took overall responsibility for our project sharing, encouraging the others to talk and model their Year 6 confidence.

Back in November, the Council had the opportunity to host some special visitors to the school, on the first ever Bedford Borough 'Young Person Takeover Day'. These included the Chief Education

Officer, Ben Pearson, Jude Lovely, Senior Improvement Advisor, and Lana Jones, from Wootton Secondary School, who took the role of Youth Cabinet, Acting Chief Education Officer. The children spoke about the opportunities and experiences of being a student at Edith Cavell and impressed all with their love of learning.

In January, the Council were approached by Abi (Friends of EC), for ideas for new play equipment that the Council would like to buy for all of the children. All members asked their class mates for ideas of toys or games that they thought would make playtimes a happier, more enjoyable time. The Year 6's visited Year 1, Reception and Nursery classes to ask for their ideas. A 'Playground Wish List' was compiled and passed to Abi, who immediately set about buying the equipment. Not all of the ideas were possible to buy, notably the helter-skelter request, but a whole range of new equipment has appeared on the playgrounds, field and in the Foundation Units. Safurah and Ravia are pleased at the addition of more Bouncy Hoppers, as there is less waiting around so less arguing! Nathan, Chido and Amelia felt that their playtime opportunities had improved and enjoyed playing with the hoops and skipping ropes.

We have been approached by Amy White, from Bedford Borough Council, to help write an updated version of the Children, Young

People and Their Families Plan. We will be completing a survey detailing the concerns and issues which affect young people and are important to them. It will provide an opportunity to have our pupil voice heard and acted upon. Mrs Shatford will work with all the Year 6 students who are present or past members of the Council, to complete the survey which will be submitted before the end of the academic year. Plans are already in place for the next years Council to meet with our Kitchen Manager and Caterlink, to discuss school meal provision and whether we can limit, or remove, one use plastic items, such as cups...