

Effingham Learning Partnership

KS1 Confederation Council Meeting

Thursday 9th March 2023 at Fetcham Village Infant School

Present:

Fetcham Village Infant School

St Lawrence Primary School

Eastwick Infant School

Great Bookham School

The Raleigh School

Polesden Lacey Infant School

St Matthew's Church of England Infant School

1. Welcome

Everyone was welcomed to Fetcham Infants by Mrs Georgina Faux who was leading the meeting.

2. Introducing Ourselves

Everyone introduced themselves by saying their names and the school they attend. It was lovely to have a mix of both year one and year two students.

3. ECO

The focus of the meeting was 'Our Planet Earth', things that are already being done to look after the planet, and ways in which we can all try to make a difference.

In order to share ideas as effectively as possible, the children repositioned themselves into groups consisting of a mix of students from different schools.

Their first task was to think about *what they are already doing to help look after our planet*. The children listened to each other attentively and were keen to share their ideas. These included:

- Make sure that we fill up all the space in exercise books so as to *not waste paper*. "I always look back to check that there are no big gaps."
- *Re-use and recycle* : The children agreed that it is fun to use items such as packaging to create models rather than just throw the rubbish straight into the bin. One student had enjoyed making a volcano from an empty egg box. The model could then be used to teach others about our planet.
- *Look after trees*, and not cut too many down. The children talked about how trees are incredibly important for the environment as they provide us with oxygen and are needed as homes for both animals and birds.
- *Look after animals* : Everyone agreed how important it is to look after all animals, both pets and in the wild. Animals are a very important part of our world.

- **Plant seeds** : "At Wisley, on a school trip, I planted a calendula. It's growing and, when it's fully grown, I'm going to keep looking after it for the air." The children talked in their groups about how all plants are important for the environment, and how flowers are particularly important for bees and other insects.
- **Save Electricity** : "Every time me and my sister go downstairs, we turn off the television first." Using less electricity saves money but also helps to protect our planet. The children discussed in their groups other ways in which they can save electricity. It is important to turn off lights if we are not using them. Many of our schools have ECO Monitors who are responsible for turning off lights when there is no-one in their classroom.
- **Use our cars as little as possible** : "We can Park and Stride!" Everyone agreed that, whilst we cannot always avoid using cars completely, it is a good idea to not use them if we can find another way of travelling to school. If we live a long way from school, we can drive some of the way and walk the rest. This would help to create less pollution in our air but "is also a good way to get some exercise!" At Fetcham Infants, classes collect data on how everyone makes their way to school each day and are awarded a 'Green Footprint' each week if enough children travel to school 'in a Green Way' (walking, by scooter, by bicycle, or Park and Stride). Classes have fun trying to beat their score from the previous week and seeing which class can gather the most Green Footprints overall!

(Having shared lots of fabulous ideas about how the children are already helping to look after our planet, everyone agreed that being an ECO-warrior can be fun but also hard work at times. This was considered to be the perfect time to share more ideas whilst enjoying some cake, biscuits and juice!)

Top 4 things we can do to make a difference:

The children talked again in their groups in order to decide what they thought were the top 4 things we can do to make a difference.

- **Plant more seeds** - Everyone agreed that plants are an essential part of our environment.
- **Grow more vegetables** - "In our school we have a little playground garden area where we plant things." Great Bookham School talked about how they grow vegetables which are then given to the school kitchen for children to eat at lunchtime.
- **Park and Stride** - to help look after our Planet *and* to keep us healthy!
- **Don't waste water** - The children agreed that there are many ways to save water:

"Turn off the tap when you're done."

Mrs Faux talked about how it is important to always turn off the tap when water is not needed.

"Catch water in a container."

"We have a water butt at our house."

It was agreed that if schools do not already have a water butt outside, they could install one to catch the rain. The rain water can then be used to water the seeds, flowers

and vegetables that are being grown, instead of using water from the tap.

4. Your School Councils

The children thought about how they can best share all their good ideas with others in their school:

"We can tell all our friends and teachers."

"We can put posters up in school."

"Talk really clearly about it and listen to other people's ideas."

Mrs Faux asked the children when would be a very good time to share their ideas with lots of people. Everyone agreed that Assembly time would be perfect, or in class.

5. Ideas for future meetings

- Learning about school rules - indoors and outside - and how to keep us safe.
- How to keep healthy
- How our World might change
- How animals survive and how we can help them
- Mental Health
- Fair Trade

6. What you liked about this meeting and what could be better

- "We could stand up more when speaking."

(When everyone introduced themselves at the start of the meeting, some children chose to stand up to speak, so that they could be heard more easily)

7. Thank you

Mrs Faux thanked everyone who came to the meeting, and for sharing their ideas with the Confederation.