

Minutes

Multi-schools meeting - Harlow

Wednesday 23rd June 2021

Virtual meeting

In attendance

St Lukes Primary

Apologies - Ivy Chimneys, Passmores, Our Lady of fatima, Harlow Fields, Pear Tree Mead, Hereward, ECC SEND Inclusion lead, Bishops Stortford Collee, Harlow College, Fawbert and Barnards, Shenfield High, Passmores, Cooks Spinney

Minutes

A very small Harlow meeting for this one as schools struggled with technology or finding the right staff capacity. St Luke's still managed to join us though! Following this meeting certificates will be sent to **Ivy Chimneys, Cooks Spinney, Pear Tree Mead, Hereward, and St Albans** for their work last term. It was great to have a range of year groups representing St Luke's for this one!

I was also very impressed that St Luke's had done lot's of prep work before the meeting and involved children in each class - not just the children attending the meeting. The first agenda item was to explore the types of questions children had about people who may be blind or visually impaired. This included how do they write, how do they drive, how do you train a guide dog, does it hurt being blind, what is braille, how do they look after pets, what equipment would help them more, how do they pick an outfit and how do they cross roads. The questions will be put to our brilliant VI group along with those from other groups.

Next up we went on to ideas for a big multi-school's event in the new academic year. Again, each year group had some wonderful ideas including an experience day that included disability sports, people talking about their disabilities, some sensory activities and schools sharing their good practice. Other ideas included a sign language workshop, introducing more disability aware clubs and an Essex wide non-uniform day.

We then went on to discuss children's use of social media and how it could potentially be made safer. The group wants to see;

- More awareness posters
- More education in schools including assemblies
- More advice/controls on ages
- Clubs that show people how to better use social media
- Schools having their own digital ambassadors who children can go and speak to
- Pages on school websites about how to better use social media when not in school
- Social media working groups around the county

The idea about schools having children who are digital ambassadors was an interesting one and not one we had come across before - it would be good for schools to share some positive practice!

No need for a break with just one school so we kept things moving! We then moved on to look at children's self-esteem which we know has been very low throughout the pandemic and even before. Ideas on how to improve this included a better emphasis on growth mindsets, encouragement posters, positive comments about each other, encouraging schools to have 'thoughtful Thursday's' and just a greater emphasis on POSITIVITY! The idea on thoughtful Thursday's is another interesting one where children make sure they do something thoughtful for someone else every Thursday and this is maybe something schools could give some 'thought' too - see what we did there!

Finally, we discussed our big fundraiser for this academic year coming up in August when a group of us climb Mount Snowdon. We need schools support to help spread awareness of this climb and the children would like to put information on schools websites with the link to the donation page, getting children to do their own sponsored stair climb's at home, contacting BBC Newsround and share a sponsor video to schools.

For the first time ever, we didn't have a star of the meeting but actually a SCHOOL OF THE MEETING! Well done for **St Luke's**, not only for turning up but for the work done before the meeting too - really great ideas! Thanks to **Cooks Spinney** for sending through their thoughts too and this will also be taken into account when we do our follow up.

Next meeting - Thursday 7th October, 10am - 11:30am, Venue TBC let us know if you would like to host ASAP.

Follow up points

- Can you do anything to support us with our fundraiser building on the ideas in these minutes? Here is our go fund me page - <https://gofund.me/7b5f2b51>