

Minutes

Multi-schools meeting - Basildon

Thursday 18th March 2022

Cherry Tree Primary

In attendance

Cherry Tree

Castledon

Fairhouse

ECC SEND team

Apologies - Glenwood, Circles, Holt Farm, Hiltop

Minutes

Our South Essex meeting in Basildon took place today and we were welcomed in by some music as we arrived! Great to have these schools with us and we started straight away by talking about this terms key topic - Racism. The group discussed what could be done and ideas included an anti-racism video on our website, posters around schools, letter to the police asking for stricter punishments, more education on racism, make sure people are reporting racism, and use slogans such as 'Stand together and beat Racism' & 'Get in the ring and beat racism'. We will be starting our campaigns shortly!

Next up was our discussion on Covid-19 and children's thoughts/feelings. We asked what was going well in terms of children recovering and what more could be done. The children felt more lunchtime clubs could come back, all schools should have buddy benches as well as having buddy mentors, have more chats in friendship groups, allow children to wear masks if they wish, more group activities (popular), good to have no more online work, encourage more people to test, we should be working towards reducing bubbles as this has been hard, we need extra support with our mental health, ensure school trips are safe but cutting down the groups and children are still worried about covid. We will be hard at work producing our children's views on Covid-19 document.

Before we stopped for a break, we managed to discuss what could better support children's speaking and listening skills. The children said we should have

more opportunities to read out loud, more opportunities to build confidence, more social clubs, more reading practice for those that may find it difficult, have more teamwork activities, teach more sign language (popular), have a chance to practice more languages, practice support strategies at home, match people up who have similar interests, have a strong focus on school values, have a chance to visit more special schools (Castledon and Fairhouse would like to link!), build more special schools for children who need this support, have a range of different resources available, have more education/training about special education. The conversation did lead onto making sure we had much more awareness about children's needs. It was time to stop for a break and always we encouraged children to speak to someone they had never spoken to before.

After our break we focused on what ideas the children would like to see as part of our awards event for 2022. The children really did have loads of ideas for new awards such as a young career award, anti-racism award, kindness award, sports award, communication award, teacher award, mental health award, achievement award, best school meals award, creativity award, responsibility award, best special needs school award, animal care award, maths award, stop bullying award, inclusion award, friends award, most improved award, courage award, best class award, best student award, popular award and a respectable award.

In our last chat of the term, we looked at the MSC website. We wanted ideas from the group on what they felt would improve our website. This included ideas such as more video's/photos, have an anti-bullying section, have more ambassador information, a stop bullying video, kindness photo's, a video on anti-racism, have a better background theme, track who goes on it, have a 'for kids section' less words, have colours such as green/pink/blue, sign post to support groups, have a scenarios page, have an auto read, have a get involved section, more patterns, a quiz page, a how to be kind page, slogans on anti-racism, a wordsearch and a leave a comment section.

This only left us with having to choose a star of the meeting. Again, this was hard but for her lead on the conversation about more SEND awareness, star of the meeting went to Faiza from Fairhouse Primary school. Thanks to Jodie too who recorded the minutes for us.

Next meeting - Tuesday 21st June 10am - 11:30am, Cherry Tree Primary

Follow up points

- Can you create any anti-racism posters?
- Could you write letters to local polices about stricter punishments on racism?