

Minutes

Multi-schools meeting - Harlow

Tuesday 15th March

Churchgate Primary

In attendance

Churchgate

Morton

Cooks Spinney

Apologies - Ivy Chimneys, Pear Tree Mead, Fawbert & Barnard, Hereward, Our lady of Fatima, Nightingale

Minutes

Week 3 of our meetings this term and there was plenty of enthusiasm in the room when we turned up. All the schools were quickly with us and we got going straight away with a focus on racism. The children had plenty of ideas on how to tackle this issue;

- Do an Essex wide picture of fists together celebrating our differences
- Have assemblies on the issue (popular)
- Lessons on the impact it has on people
- Do a poster competition
- Use positive language such as 'We should all love each other'
- Promote positive kindness
- Focus on positive self-esteem
- Involve other schools around the world

Our second focus point was Covid-19 and the impact this has had on children from all backgrounds. The children were very vocal on this point and said one of the hardest things was not seeing friends (popular), children feel more lonely, not seeing family has been hard, some barriers still to going out, missing school was difficult, we need more mental health assemblies, PSHE lessons should have a greater focus on relationships, some lessons have been harder to catch up on, children should have more information as it comes out about how it may have

affected our bodies, there has been a lack of sporting opportunities, children felt it has negatively impacted on their mental health and more youth clubs should be introduced so that children can talk about the impact.

Our final discussion before the breaktime was our conversation on children's speaking and listening skills where they again had lot's to share. We asked what would support this area and the children came up with using zoom and facetime to support some children, use sign language (popular), include more pictures, use different languages in schools (popular), all schools to have buddy benches (popular), youth clubs to have a focus on this area, more role modelling from teachers, have children mentors, include PE as a way of communicating (popular), lessons on how to build friendships, more art clubs to express ourselves, encourage writing letters to others in the school, build links with refuges. The children then stopped for a break and has some time outside mixing with each other which was again great to see!

Following the breaktime we started looking at the awards from last year's event and what could possibly be added. After sharing the list on the screen the group made these suggestions;

- Respectful award (Popular)
- Patience award
- Friendship award
- Environment award
- Fundraiser award
- Looking after the school award
- Stepping out your comfort zone award
- Maths award (Popular)
- Communication award
- Helping others award
- Singing award
- Positive award
- Gaming award

Finally, we looked at our website on the screen and asked for suggestions about how to improve it. As always, the children had some great suggestions including quizzes (popular), brighter colours maybe purple/pink (popular), a little prettier, try include schools around the world, more pictures, have different languages (popular), a space for staff to link into, have this quote on the website 'Help students, for students', have a page on top tips, have a celebration page, a top 5

points from meetings page, a comments page, have different challenges, a health page, support links for mental health, have a suggestions box, links to singing/dancing, a video in sign language.

This brought to the end an inspiring meeting with lots of great young people. It was the hardest meeting so far during this term to pick a star of the meeting but the star did go to Samuel from Cooks Spinney for a range of great ideas and growing in confidence throughout the meeting.

Next meeting - Wednesday 22nd June, 10am - 11:30am, Cooks Spinney

Follow up points

- **Can you create some posters for anti-racism?**
- **Can you send us a picture of children from different backgrounds holding their fists up?**