**Uttlesford MSC Meeting**

**25 March 2024**

**Birchanger Primary**

**Attendance**

Great Easton

Birchanger

Stebbing

**Apologies – Roseacres, Henham & Ugley**

**Minutes**

Another small group with big ideas met in Uttlesford today. Great to also spend some time reflecting back on the last meeting in February wit everyone in the room used to attending MSC meetings in the past. The first discussion point was about inclusion, something we are also collecting videos on too. This is what was said:

* Everyone should have their ideas listened to
* Make sure young people are included in different games
* It links into teamwork
* Those using a wheelchair need to be included more
* Everyone should have the same opportunities
* People who have ADHD or autism don’t have to talk about it
* More to be done to include people who are dyslexic
* More places need to be mobility friendly
* Everyone should have the opportunity to pray if they want with more places available

As mentioned we are doing a wide piece of work on inclusion.

Next up we looked at the pros & cons of technology from CYP’s views. In terms of positives they mentioned being able to speak with friends on the other side of the world, could help prepare for jobs, you can get good information, it can help you learn, you can make friends, it can help people in different ways, people can learn in different ways, games can be fun, can support dyslexia, can support different disabilities and can give you time with friends. On the other hand we had negatives such as pressure to look a certain way because of social media, can change how some people act, can involve hate crime, can be very addictive, can make you lazy, there can be lots of fake news, online bullying, can hurt your eyes, inappropriate videos, bad language, people can try and exploit you, can be dangerous, people may be able to find out where you live and can give you headaches. Really great conversation that covered lots of different topics.

After this we had a break and a game to keep things fresh! It was then on to discussing reading. We asked the group what encouraged them to read and what supported them. We had a range of ideas including:

* More choice of books
* Books that give you some choices
* Books where there is a mystery involved
* Turn more movies into books
* Have more comic books
* More picture books for all ages
* Books that are more simple for some
* Books that can inspire you
* Books that get you thinking
* Audiobooks can help some people but not everyone
* Longer books can be better for some people
* More dedicated time to read

Interesting thoughts once again & we will take these forwards with other thoughts across Essex.

This brought us to our final discussion all about happiness. Young people felt that being more active could help, getting out into nature more, having more art opportunities, donating more to charities, having more quiet/sensory spaces, more parks, encouraging hugging, more places to hang out, having more fun (both young people & adults!), more things for free, having more movement breaks, more clubs in school that are led by young people, laughter and more learning outside. Will be publishing a happiness report!

Before finishing the meeting today, we had a look at a reflective garden, brilliantly put together but the young people of Birchanger! The star for this meeting was Lily from Stebbing primary for encouraging her friends to get involved and some good points when we discussed the agenda item of reading!

Next meeting – Monday 13th May – Great Easton primary, 10am – 11:30am