

Our school Council has had another busy year since we were elected back in September. This year, Mrs Shatford produced a job advertisement which we had to read, before completing an application form. Next was the preparation of an election speech to our classmates. It was quite a nervous experience waiting to see if we had been elected, as in some classes there were several candidates. Once we had been elected, we met with Mrs Shatford and were given our badges, of which we are very proud, introduced ourselves and went through the code of conduct for being a good councillor. We were also given homework to complete which was to read the School Council pages on the School website!

As one of the responsibilities of being a School Council member is being a positive role model to the rest of the school, we are very aware that our personal behaviour in and around school has to be of the highest standard. Unfortunately, two of the children found this difficult to maintain so were asked to leave the Council. As it worked so well last year, children in Year 4 have again taken a more active role in researching information and providing ideas to be discussed at meetings, plus taking responsibility for mentoring the younger children on

the Council. We collect and deliver them back to their classrooms and sit with them at meetings.

When we have meetings, we all have lots of ideas on ways in which we can improve the school, including clubs that we would like to have such as music, drama and Lego, plus charity events that we could hold to finally raise enough money for the new playground markings! With this in mind, we asked Miss Cooke if, on the day we had school Christmas lunch, children could dress up in a Christmas themed t-shirt or jumper, and donate some money. We not only raised money, but everyone looked very festive and bright. In the Spring Term, we also participated in a sponsored skip to raise money, and have looked at some catalogues from Signet Signs and Project Playgrounds. The exercise trim trails looked very interesting and were similar to some that the Year 4's had enjoyed using at Beauchamp Middle. Hopefully we won't have too much longer to wait. Plans are in place for a children's version of The Race for Life, to support the work of the Macmillan cancer support charity, which is the Council's community charity fundraising event.

Early in February, we received an invitation from Priory Lower School Council, asking us to visit them

and share ideas about how we run the Council, ways to raise money and how we help to improve our school community. We enjoyed a fantastic afternoon and wrote a report about our experiences which has been included on the school website. On the 22nd of June, we had a visit from the School Council from Livingstone Primary School, who very kindly brought us a book of stories from the Qur'an, to commemorate their visit to us. We played some games and tried to learn each other's names before talking about how our roles as Councillors varied. Cakes and juice helped us to share ideas about fund raising and school trips. It was very interesting to meet some Year 5 children and hear what they thought of being at a Primary school. We are currently working on a thank you letter to send to Livingstone School.

Last year the School Council worked on producing a web page on the history and life story of Edith Cavell. This is to prepare for the fact that 2015 would be the 100 year commemoration of her death and the outbreak of World War One, along with the fortieth Birthday celebration of our school. As there was to be a commemorative coin produced which featured Edith Cavell, a representative from The

Royal Mint agreed to come and visit the school. We were extremely lucky to have Mr Fergus Feeney visit us, whom the Council interviewed using questions that we had all thought of. To mark his visit, Mr Feeney presented the School with a plaque with a clay coin which celebrated the life of Edith Cavell. Having our photograph appear in the local paper was exciting too. After the special assembly, we had the job of showing Mr Feeney, the Mayor and several other special visitors around our School. Afterwards we worked with Mrs Shatford to produce a web page.

As preparation for candidates for next year's School Council, we are currently working on a power point and some information posters, to show the children in assembly. We want to tell them about our experiences and the skills they will need to be good councillors, so they are ready when the job advert comes out in September.

Finally, we have thought about the things we have enjoyed the most during our time on the School Council. Trying to improve the School community and organising events has been a great experience, especially feeling that we have a pupil voice and that we are listened to. We often invite Miss Cooke to attend the end of our meetings, especially if we have

something important to ask or tell her. Children from Key Stage 1 have enjoyed applying and being elected, sharing ideas, meeting with children from other schools and with children across our own school community. The visit from Mr Feeney has been voted as the highlight of the year! As Year Four children, we feel it has increased our confidence and that we would want to take this role again in the future at another school. We have enjoyed working with the younger children, as they have with us, and all feel that being on the School Council has been a fantastic way to finish our time at Edith Cavell. If time allows, we are hoping to welcome Priory Lower School for a return visit.