

## Report of Edith Cavell Primary School Council to the Governing Body, July 9<sup>th</sup> 2018

Another year of School Council duties have been completed but, for the first time ever, in a Primary setting with an increased school population. In addition, it is the first year when Councillors have been elected only from Year 2 upwards. After an assembly, where previous Councillors talked about their experience of representing the School, all children who were interested in being on the Council had to complete an ideas sheet and then give a brief presentation to their classmates, before voting took place. Once elected, the children met with Mrs Shatford and received their badges and discussed the expectations of behaviour, respect for others viewpoints and the need to maintain confidentiality over some of the issues raised in meetings.

All of the children have been able to comment, in a positive way, about their time on the Council. The youngest Councillors, Hooriya and Arafat felt that their ideas were always listened to (even if they felt shy talking) and were very much part of the discussion process. Rele enjoyed participating in meetings where he knew that the atmosphere would be one of respect for others, and everyone was able to share and take turns. Elizabeth, Lenae, Luca, Eniola and Joshua thought it was

important to have a pupil voice to gather and present views on the School, which Katie described as their "working environment" and finding, according to Shannon, "solutions through discussion" which they could feed back to their classmates.

One of the concerns raised this year was of the significant amount of rubbish, milk cartons and fruit peel that was being left on the field and playgrounds rather than being put into bins. After discussion, the Council asked if they could present an Assembly about the problem of littering and launch a competition to design posters to be displayed in and around the school. A significant number of children, from Nursery to Year 5, designed posters and these can be seen around the School. Each outdoor bin has a display of posters fixed to it, which have been eagerly read by the children, and the messages seem to be working as there is much less 'playtime' rubbish around, and children happily queue to put rubbish into the bin. Older children have prompted others not to litter, even talking to parents if they have seen litter dropped.

Discussion has continued around school dinners and lunchtime routines, particularly from Year 5, comments which have been conveyed to Miss Cooke and Mrs Stanton, throughout the year. In brief these include portion size, the availability of chosen food option and seating arrangements. The Council are aware that their voice is being heard and listened to. In addition,

Pearl Class know that they are responsible for their own behaviour during lunchtime, and need to model their conduct at the highest standard for the rest of the children to follow.

On a positive note, Year 5's have been very happy to share their experience of being educated in a Primary setting. Increased responsibility has been a key theme: being trusted to move around the school independently; travelling to and from school without parental supervision; being reading buddies for the younger children; having responsibility for their pencil cases and school equipment and the opportunity to participate on the School Fayre Committee and run a stall. Swimming lessons and food hygiene/cooking, with Sue, have been thoroughly enjoyed, as have Science lessons, Computing, RE and the texts read in English.

Representing the school at sports festivals and competitions has proved popular with all children. However, as a Primary School, the children feel that their PE kit should reflect this change, particularly the fleeces that are worn to events, to promote a sense of identity. With this in mind, and if Miss Cooke agrees it is a good idea, we would like to fundraise to replace the fleeces, focussing first on those for Upper Key Stage 2. So far we have talked about asking the Friends of Edith Cavell for help, or even seek sponsorship- one local school is sponsored by John Lewis. As the school has recently taken

part in the launch of the new Aldi store, we thought this might be the place to start.

Mrs Shatford has also been contacted by Emily Meekins, the Engagement and Development Officer at Borough Hall, who has responsibility for ensuring that young people have their 'voices heard' through School Councils. From Year 6, pupils are able to participate in the United Kingdom Youth Parliament- Mark Your Mark Elections, to vote on issues that are important to them. This launches on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and votes need to be cast by October 10<sup>th</sup>. Once we have more details about what is involved, and if we wish to participate, the current Year 5 Council members will take the lead as they are already effective and experienced Councillors. Finally, all of the Councillors have said they have enjoyed their time on the Council, and would be willing to participate again.