

## Newlaites Junior School Council

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2024

1.30pm

**Present:** Miss Lowther, Miss MacArtney and all of the school council members.

### **Agenda:**

1. Welcome to all our new council members
2. An understanding of the council and how it works
3. Role of the councillors
4. What could be improved in our local area?
5. What could be improved within our school/grounds?
6. Charity to support
7. AOB - class items, etc

#### **1. Welcome to all our new council members**

The newly elected council members were introduced to each other.

Class 1 - Polly Atkinson, Alfie Thomlinson

Class 2 - Teddy Green, Esme Taylor

Class 3 - Louie Fisher, Maisie Lee

Class 4 - Millie Orr, Lenny Hodgson

Class 5 - Luke MacPherson, Phoebe Munro

Class 6 - Eryn Dawes, Eniola Anuodo

Class 7 - Macy Crowe, Joe Ridley

Class 8 - Joseph Cross, Caitlin Harris

(School council badges had previously been issued.)

#### **2. An understanding of the council and how it works**

All new council members introduced themselves with some explaining why they wanted to represent their class. Miss Lowther explained how the council worked and the important role that each and every one of them could play in terms of representing their class and playing an active role in making the school an even better place. Each class were given a class council notebook - ***please can we ensure that these are up-to-date and ideas are presented neatly/clearly so that they help provide evidence of the role that each class is playing in the school council as well as showing that class councils are taking place. They also allow the school council meetings to be productive. Please can you also make sure that a class council has been help prior to the meeting? (This***

might take place in an assembly time when you are with your class - e.g. Years 3 & 4 on a Monday, Years 5 & 6 on a Tuesday.)

3 classes out of 8 have not had a class council meeting as of yet. Please can class council meetings be held prior to school council meetings in order for them to be productive and purposeful? Thank you.

### **3. Role of the councillors**

The children understood that they represented their class and could bring any recommendations and ideas to the council meetings. The council members were given time in groups to consider the role of the school council. A number of relevant suggestions were given.

These points were then looked at in more detail to help further clarify the role of the school council.

### **4. What could be improved in our local area?**

- \* More swings in Chances Park - suggestions were given with regard to how we could go about doing this. (Writing to Julie Minns.)
- \* Litter in Chances Park - could a group of children go and pick this up? (Topic related.) More bins.
- \* The need for dogs to be on leads - people are scared of dogs and dog fouling. (Separate areas for dogs on/off leads.)
- \* Signs in place encouraging the people to treat the park respectfully. (Signs made - again any curricular links?)
- \* Humps and hills in the park which are dangerous.
- \* Scared of older children who are 'hanging out' in the park. Bikes are being taken. People hiding in the forest part, near the playground. Bad language is being used.
- \* Police on patrol to help with issues.  
(Caitlin Elliot & Joseph Cross to write a letter to Julie Minns with concerns - Miss Lowther to oversee this.)

### **5. What could be improved within our school/grounds?**

- \* Planting more trees at the back of the playground as not used much apart from where balls are kicked out. (Eniola and Joseph to speak to Mr Clark.)
- \* More space for a reading area outdoors. Could there be benches/chairs in the reading area rather than just sitting on the floor? (Eryn and Millie to speak to Miss Prosser.)

- \* Monkey bars on the school playground are a preference. (*Joseph to speak to Mr Clark.*)
- \* Wheeled trolley for book donations which children can help themselves to. (*Eniola and Joseph to speak to Miss Prosser.*)
- \* Make phonics rooms more appealing (displays). (*Eniola and Joseph to speak to Miss Downie.*)

## **6. Charity to support**

The children were reminded of the fantastic fundraising events that they have carried out in the past and how charities benefit as a result. Leading on from this it was discussed which charities the children would be interested in raising money for this year. This is an area that we will look at in more detail at the next meeting after class councils have taken place. (If any classes have a preference, please send your reasons to the next council meeting via your class councillors. One charity per class please to be suggested.)

## **7. AOB**

- The School Council will normally be given a budget of £250 which will be spent on playground equipment. The councillors (from Class 5) are to feed back at the next meeting as to what is currently available in the toy cupboard, what might need replaced and which toys are popular/break easily. Please can you discuss with your class their top 3 items that they would like to have in the toy cupboard outside.

- Are there any clubs that the children would be interested in having in school next term? (seasonal).

School improvement suggestions from children:

- New clubs, e.g. running club.
  - Would it be possible to have more monkey bars on the playground?
  - More benches in the quiet area to relax on/read.
- (See above.)

**Joseph & Eniola will now chair the meeting and Caitlin & Millie will be vice chair - this is a role that will be swapped half termly.**

## **Items for the next meeting:**

- Any feedback on the chosen charity.
  - Discuss things children would like for toy cupboard (Class 5 to finalise).
- Class councillors to return with top 3 things each class would like.

- Each class to decide on 1 charity to fund raise for - school council will then pick 1 from suggestions.
- Each class to discuss club ideas that children would be interested in. Max of 2 suggestions to be brought back per class.
- Fundraising ideas - Miss Lowther/Miss MacArtney to speak about ways to promote this further.
- AOB

The meeting closed at 2.20pm