



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Prince Bishop's Community Primary

Prince Bishop's Community Primary in Coundon Grange has now been open for two years. It is a new school formed from two primary schools. It now feels like it has its own identity and the children I met with feel very proud of their new school.

I met with Mrs George and then with Katie, Chloe, Megan, Matthew, Zac and Harriet, who were very enthusiastic and were keen to tell me *everything* about their school and even gave me a guided tour!

Evidence of Dialogue & Change

School Council

The children told me about how the school council has continued to run this year. The children who were interested in being in the school council had to present a speech to their class to tell them why they want to do it. Matthew told me he still sees his speech on the computer when he logs on. Each class went to the community room where they could vote, each child had two votes, one for a boy and one for a girl. There are two councillors in each class, and the school council meets every two weeks on a Tuesday.

Each class has a class council meeting where they can make suggestions for the school councillors to put forward in the meetings. The council meets with Mrs Johnston, and they have a big discussion about the important things from their classes. Matthew told me, **"We gather all the ideas together, we talk about them, and then the three best go to Mrs George."** Sometimes old issues keep getting raised so they then go to Mrs George.

Chloe told me, **"Then we feed back to the class about what we've done."**

Sometimes the issues raised need to be talked about to the whole school and Mrs George talks about them in assembly, and Megan told me, **"Sometimes we get up in assembly. The children have a great responsibility in taking part."**

Playground Equipment

Harriet told me about the plans for the playground. **"We've already got a lot of equipment; the children decided as a class that we'd like equipment."** Chloe went on to tell me that the children are concerned that the infants haven't got anything to play on, so there are plans to do something for them. There are lots of designs to be painted on the ground during the holidays. The children showed me the pictures including snakes and ladders, a number snake, and a target. The children talked a lot about playtimes and they feel that after a lot of work and planning the playtimes are a great part of school. Chloe told me that they have lots of things to play with, **"Play times are a fun time, everyone gets together. We've worked out how everyone gets a turn, so we have more space and we get along better."**

Healthy Packed Lunches

Megan told me that the children were concerned with staying healthy so they invited a lady called Helen to come to school. Megan said, **“She talked to us about healthy lifestyles and did taster sessions for the children, it was really good.”**

Self Assessment

The school has introduced peer-marking. This is when after something has been taught by the teacher the children can assess how well they have understood it. They put a smiley face if they think they’ve understood it well, a face with a straight mouth if they think it was okay, and a face with a sad mouth if they didn’t understand it at all. Matthew told me that if you don’t understand, **“the teacher will go through it again in a different way.”** The children I met thought that this was really helpful to them and the rest of the school has agreed so it will continue.

Peer Marking

Chloe told me that all the children in school were in favour of peer marking. **“You show everyone your work and everyone marks it.”** All the children thought that this was a good idea and asked for it to be continued.

Power Prose

This is something that the whole school takes part in on a Wednesday afternoon. Chloe was very enthusiastic about this. **“We have a chance to just relax, we listen to some nice music, look at a nice picture, or close your eyes then you just get time to relax.”** During my tour I saw the image of a candle on the interactive whiteboard in Chloe’s class, and Megan got her book to show me what they do. They have lovely pieces of writing that are inspired by the music and pictures and they also have comments from their teacher, and also the children sign to show they’ve read it and can write a response back. The teachers also highlight the work, with green for vocabulary, yellow for connectives, orange for openers and pink for punctuation. The children were asked if they found it useful and they all agreed they did so the staff have continued to work in this way.

Displays

During my wonderful tour of the school I was shown all of the displays. Megan told me, **“We get to say what displays we want to put up.”** Chloe talked to me about a big display of the school rules, **“The children made up these rules for our school, each class said what they thought was important, so they’re our rules.”**

In the hall there is a magnificent display of all of the children’s photographs. It takes up the length of the hall and introduces all of the children and the roles they have in school. Each different role - school council, monitors, school captains, librarians, buddies and mini-buds – has a coloured frame to show the role. It is very impressive and when I commented on it to Mrs George, about how much work and effort had gone into it she said, **“All of the children are important and this is a way of showing it.”**

After School Clubs

Children at Prince Bishop's Community Primary School put forward requests for after school clubs. Matthew told me, **"The children wanted after school clubs, so we got them to write down ideas."** As a result the school now runs a number of clubs including dance, football, Tai Chi, maths, boxing exercise, guitar and carpet bowls.

Having visited the school, and had a tour and met many people along the way it is evident that Prince Bishop's Primary is welcoming place which has the children at the very heart of everything. Mrs George's lead has been followed by everyone and the children feel empowered. The children I met, Katie, Chloe, Megan, Matthew, Zoe and Harriet were all very keen to tell me how they felt about their school. Chloe said, **"The teachers listen to us, our views, and make our school a happy place."** Harriet went on to say, **"It's our school, we are the school, the school is us, the teachers listen to us and vice versa, we just love our whole school."** And so, with their resounding endorsement I would like to recommend that Prince Bishop's Community Primary receive another year of Investing in Children membership.

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Investing in Children
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