



Evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Woodhouse Community Primary School

Woodhouse Community Primary School is a newly formed school, opening in September 2007. It will be the result of joining the existing Woodhouse Close Junior School and Woodhouse Close Infant School. Mrs Welsh is the head teacher of the junior school and will be the head of the new primary school.

For this evaluation I had the pleasure of meeting with Mrs Welsh and children from both the junior and infant schools; Jodene, Brooklyn, Kayla, Ashley, Georgina, Kyle, Robbie-Lee, Demi-Leigh, Hayden, Harry, Kirsty, Sean, John, Kieran and Kaylee.

Evidence of Dialogue and Change

Mrs Welsh has felt it is essential for the children from both the junior and infant schools to be involved in plans for their new school in numerous ways, and the children I met are very excited at the prospect of the new school and clearly feel very involved in preparations and plans.

Name of the New School

Jodene was keen to tell me how the new name for the school was chosen. **"We got letters to take home and people wrote what it should be called."**

Demi-Leigh continued, **"Loads said Woodhouse Primary instead of having Woodhouse Close Primary it was decided it should be Woodhouse Community Primary. Our younger brothers and sisters did it too, the infants got letters."**

Kaylee from the infant school told me, **"We had to take something home to write on."**

New School Badge

Once the new name was decided the children were involved in a competition for designing a new school badge. Kyle told me, **"The teachers gave us three kinds of badges and we coloured them in. There was a shield, a circle and another kind of shield."**

He went on to tell me, **"Everyone in each class voted for one. They went to Mrs Welsh and the governors and had a meeting and they chose Melissa McKimm. She's done a rainbow and two children playing."**

The children proudly showed me a sweatshirt with the new school badge. It is a lovely, colourful badge and all of the children are looking forward to wearing the new uniform.

Classroom Decoration

Jodene told me about her classroom being re-decorated. **"We asked teachers if we could choose the colours. The builders said 'yes', so we got a few to choose from. Luckily, we liked the same as Mr Lockey."**

Class and School Councils

Kyle explained how the school council is set up every year. **"The teacher says put your hand up if you want to be in the school council. We voted. There are two from each class."**

Jodene told me how they found out what is important to everyone from each class, in their class council meetings. **"We have a suggestion box, and a book. We go in a circle, pick something out, go round and talk about it, vote yes or no, or get ideas. Then we take it to the school council meeting."**

Kyle added, **"People can add to the suggestion box whenever they want to."**

Buddies

The school has a buddy system. Jodene explained, **“If you’re in year 6 you can be a buddy. The teacher asks if you want to be a buddy.”**

Demi-Leigh continued, **“You put your hand up. If there’s too many who want to do it, you put your name in a hat, then it’s fair.”**

Jodene agreed, **“Nobody moans or argues.”**

In the school playground there is a Buddy Bus Stop, and a Time Out Stop. Ashley told me how the buddy bus stop works. **“When you don’t have any friends to play with you stand there and a buddy will come along.”**

Playground Equipment

The school playground is an area that the children are very excited about making changes to. Jodene informed me, **“The school council decided the other day that we’re going to paint the logo on a wall and paint numbers and letters on the containers for the younger children.”**

Kyle added, **“There’ll be a quiet area, with benches.”**

And Demi-Leigh told me, **“There’ll be planters, three in the new part of the playground, and three in the old part.”**

The children also want some new equipment in the playground. Demi-Leigh said, **“We’ll be able to choose it.”** Jodene continued, **“We’ve discussed it, if they don’t get played with it’s a waste.”**

The school council has also been looking ahead to when they are a primary, with infants in the same school. Demi-Leigh told me, **“We might not play football in case it knocks them over.”**

Robbie-Lee added, **“There’ll be a climbing frame for the younger ones.”**

There has clearly been a great deal of activity in the school with children very much involved in the plans. The children are looking forward to joining together as one school. John said, **“We’ll all be at the school, it’ll be good and we can play together.”**

Kaylee added, **“I want to see my sister over there.”**

Kirsty told me, **“I’m glad that I’m going to the other school, because everyone is going to be there, all my teachers.”**

Harry agreed, **“My best friend is going over there with me, so I’ll see everyone I know.”**

All of the children were keen to tell me about the different activities and clubs that are part of their school, and it was clear that they enjoy a huge range of things that they can participate in and be recognised for. The children feel part of a caring and respectful community and this is demonstrated in the way that they talk about their school.

When I asked, “Do you feel listened to?” Jodene said, **“We’re listened to every day really.”** The rest of the children whole-heartedly agreed with her, and along with them I would like to recommend that Woodhouse Community Primary receive Investing in Children membership, well done and good luck in your new school.

Lisa Lines

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Investing in Children

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