

Healthy Schools Meeting

A Meeting took place on Wednesday 3rd February 2010 between the Healthy Schools, Eco Schools and the Health and Safety Committees.

We are to amalgamate the three committees in to one new committee.

Present: Mr Middleditch, Mrs Crockett, Mrs Varnarva, Mrs Vaughan, Alex Langmead, Harry Peace, Ellie May, Rosie Thomas, Harry Steward, Ellie Turner, Thomas Robson, Ben Burton, Jade Stein, Leigh Herbert and Caitlin Walker.

Apologies: Mrs Watling, Molly Smith and Shannon Ramotar.

Mr Middleditch explained that at the start of each meeting we would record those present, the apologies and go through the previous meetings minutes.

The following points were discussed and suggestions made:

1. **Energy Consumption** – We have applied for a meter which shows how much energy has been used. We will read it and monitor the findings.
“Volunteers are needed to do this.
2. **Hazards** – The weekly check around the school have been started. Hazards had been identified and feedback would be given in Assembly. (Example: Pencils left on the floor in a classroom – potential hazard of falling / slipping).
3. **Gardening:** When the weather improves the garden club will start again – planting the boat, looking after the wildlife area.

The winter veg were not so successful mainly due to the snow. It was suggested that potatoes. Strawberries and carrots were easier to grow. Produce would be put on display and then invite parents to come and sample and even take produce home.

Mrs Varnarva also suggested planting runner beans. The suggestion was also made to look into planting plum tree.

4. **Recycle:** A year 5 boy had a really good idea to recycle tin foil and aluminium cans. These were in aid of a young boy with health problems. Since we have started the amount brought in has trebled. A new silver bin is to be ordered for the collection and a reminder to go out in the newsletter.
5. **Ideas:** The committee would like to invite Mr Smith from Tendring District Council to discuss matters and obtain suggestions from him.
6. **School Dinners:** These are still being looked into.
7. **Energy:** This is the main concern.
There is a new website for schools and children - the committee members are to have a look and get ideas from this. The question was then should we use their graphs etc or should the school produce our own way of displaying the readings and consumption.

It is very easy to monitor energy consumption but the difficulty is actually reducing it.

Eco Schools need a large permanent display area in the reception area of the school – Mr Middleditch suggested that this could happen after the office extension.

8. **Long Term Planning:** A suggestion was made to look into Wind Turbines and Solar Panels. We would need planning permission of some sort but this was felt that this was a very worthwhile thing to do.
9. **Resources:** There is a need for a big shed in KS2 to store play equipment but it would mean removing a flower bed. We are currently obtaining quotes for this.

The children felt that the chess game needs to be moved to a quieter place – Harry Peace is going to get some volunteers together to have a look and decide the best location for this.

10. **Healthy Schools:** The Woodland Trust would be invited to an assembly in March to enable them to give out awards. After half term all the group would take a walk to the wood to see how it is progressing.

Once the better weather came lunch time walks would resume again.

The Woodland Trust would like to train up a handful of people to train as guides in different types of flowers and trees and species of bird's so that they can then pass on their knowledge to others.

AOB: 1000 Schools in the UK have a green flag - we are one of them.

As part of our long term planning, a Grandparent has suggested an observatory to enable us to measure the stars.

A suggestion of a weather station to monitor the weather has been made. This would be useful and if done properly BBC Essex sometimes base their forecasts on information received from local resources. This would also help the children in their Geography.

Mrs Varnarva suggested that we should have goals and targets - for example over a certain period to reduce energy consumption by say 5%. If we met the target then all school members could receive a treat.

In the news recently there was a story of a family of four who only had one bag of rubbish in a whole year as they recycle everything!!

In conclude the meeting it was decided that there would be **NO** paper minutes of the meeting but they would be posted on the school website.