

School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 10.2.26

Time: 2:45-3:15

In Attendance:

Year 2 – Laree, Dougie
Year 3 – Abi, Finley
Year 4 – Fraser, Maisie
Year 5 – Martha, Anya
Year 6 – Spencer, Ruby
Jane – a grandparent supporting us with this project

Apologies: None

Topic: Reading Hutch and Eco recycle area development

Speaker (Chair): Mrs Allison

Notes:

Discussion around our ideas on how to progress with a tidy up of the reading hutch and a development of the area to create a swap shop or community recycle and reuse centre outside the gates of the playground.

Purpose: To support the school's plan to provide for the school community and to continue plans to support the reuse of uniform, unwanted goods and shared reading. We want to make sure that the area is promoted as a way of recycling and reusing (therefore helping the environment) rather than a food and book bank for those less fortunate. This will take any stigma away from using it.

What are the plans? To save the reading hutch and make the area more weather friendly. To provide a place where the community can share any food not needed or liked and also others can try (a kind of swap shop).

Ideas and considerations for reading hutch:

- Need to consider storage that will help keep the books and items waterproof as the books are now a little soggy
- Someone may need to sort the books into those that are ok and those that need fixing or throwing away
- We would like to organise the books into sections for enjoyment (we discussed how if we did them by age range this would not suit every reader and also that some books are meant for adults to read to children), a suitability list would make sense for parents.
- We could put toddler books on the bottom and adult books on the top
- It would be good to have a sliding lock on the storage, not so it is locked as we want everyone to use it but so that it remains secure.

- We will need to have a rota on who was going to check the hutch to make sure it still worked for everyone – maybe parents could help with this
- It would be good to have some signs on it to say help to keep it tidy
- A returns box would be good – that would make it easy for people borrowing and mean that we could keep it well sorted
- It would be nice to have a bench or some chairs so that families could sit and read here while waiting for the gate to open
- A shelter would make sense because when it is raining people won't use it and also might help keep everything dry
- We should probably advertise it to parents and children so that it gets used well – we could make some posters
- There is a water butt there – should we move it? The water butt is actually helping with the eco theme so we should leave it but can work round it. Maybe we could put some planters there and flowers to make it more attractive

Ideas and considerations around the food swap shop:

- This needs to be an area that is secure so that no creatures can get in and nibble the food
- We can only have some foods in there and they should probably in boxes to make sure they stay ok
- Maybe just cans, packets, and non-perishables
- We will need to warn people about allergies and could have a 'drop off box' so we can sort them
- Signs and labels about allergies will need to be clear and we will have to say 'adults only' as we don't want children helping themselves
- Then maybe the food shouldn't be on show as some little ones might get upset and want it
- We should have a separate 'Gluten Free' box so it doesn't mix with the other foods
- Should we have a sign that gives a list of what can be put in here and maybe how many items can be taken at a time
- We will have to have some monitors to check the dates regularly

Actions:

Action Plan for this project;

Action	Cost	Who/when?
1. Clear out existing books from reading hutch – throw, fix, keep		Feb 26
2. Make hutch waterproof	£30 (school)	Easter holidays
3. Get storage for food swap shop, reading hutch, lost property	£800 (PTA)	Easter holidays
4. Get boxes for different sections and additional waterproofing	£100 (fundraising)	April 26
5. Create an index system and labels for the books to be organised – including a returns tray		May 26
6. A rota for clearing and sorting the reading hutch and food swap shop		May 26
7. Labels and signage for all the areas	£80 (fundraising)	May 26
8. Advertise the area – slogans and posters, newsletter, etc, ask for donations		May 26
9. Repurpose some seating areas for reading		May 26

10. Ask Mr Lynch to build a roof or canopy to support the area, planting area	£500 (PTA)	Summer holidays
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Treasurers Report:

Any other Business:

Any other discussion:

- Should we move the lost property over here? That would be a good idea but we would need to check it regularly and keep it dry like the other areas
- We should make people aware of the other areas of the school where we recycle such as the clothing bin, battery recycling and computer parts for vouchers scheme – make signs to show where these are

Next Meeting: week beginning – Monday 23rd February 2026