

Secretary: Mr. P. Browning
Stepney Primary School
Beverley Road
Kingston Upon
HU5 1JJ



Telephone: (01482) 343690
Fax: (01482) 348681
Email: pbrowning@stepney.hull.sch.uk

International Pupil Council **Meeting 1: Minutes**

Venue: Winifred Holtby School

Date: Tuesday 12th October 2010

Present:

Mr P Browning (Chair, Head at Stepney PS), Mrs G Rule (Winifred Holtby), Liz Smith (Hull City Council), Mimi (Yr 5, Stepney PS), Ronaldo (Yr 5, Stepney PS), Mitchell (Yr 5, Ings PS), Charlotte (Yr 5, Ings PS), Megan (Yr 5, Pearson PS), Ruhan (Yr 5, Pearson PS), Tommy (Yr 5, Bellfield PS), Aimee (Yr 5, Bellfield PS), Samia (Yr 5, Thanet PS), Charlie (Yr 5, Thanet PS), Lydio (Yr 5, Collingwood PS), Kalim (Yr 5, Collingwood PS), Tommy (Yr 5, Dorchester PS), Casey (Yr 5, Dorchester PS), Callum (Yr 5, St, Richards PS), Rebecca (Yr 5, St Richards PS), Caitlan (Yr 7, Winifred Holtby), Thomas (Yr 8, Winifred Holtby), Abdur-Rahman (Yr 5, Sutton Park PS), Adam (Yr 5, Sutton Park PS)

Apologies:

None

1. Introductions

We went around the table and introduced ourselves. For those who knew their twin school in Freetown, we told each other what these were as well.

2. Background to the council

Mr Browning explained that he was the head of Stepney Primary School and he was grateful to everyone for attending today's meeting. He explained that his school is linked with ICOPs school in Freetown. A couple of years ago, he had a visit from Francis Mason (Conforti, Freetown), who had been really interested in the Council notice boards at Stepney. Like other schools in Hull, Stepney's pupils are involved in their own school council, a local council (the Wyke Area Schools Council, in Stepney's case) and the Hull Youth Parliament. Francis was impressed with this. He said that in Freetown, children do not have the opportunity to express their views – there wasn't a 'pupil voice' in his country. Following this discussion, Mr Browning and Francis have decided to set up a pupil council – one to be based in Hull and one in Freetown. All the schools that are currently linked with a school in the other country have been invited to be part of this council. Francis is holding the first meeting of the Freetown IPC on 29th October 2010. Mr Browning told us that we would be doing some things for this meeting.

3. Aims

Following this, we all discussed what would be the main aims for the council. There were many excellent contributions from all the pupils around the table. We decided on three main aims, which are:

- To give an insight into each other's schools and lives in both countries;
- All our schools to help each other;
- To find out and understand the similarities and differences between the two countries.

4. Individual School Activities

We went around the table again and spoke about activities we were already doing with our partner schools.

Sutton Park

Abdur-Rahman and Adam explained how they had been looking at instruments that had been brought back from Freetown, including steel drums and 'tin guitars'. They had written letters to children at their link school and sent resources, such as crayons. The headteacher and deputy head teacher had visited Freetown and Christian had visited their school. They had also had workshops with Barmmy Boy (most of the other schools said they had had Barmmy in as well).

Dorchester

Tommy and Casey said they had done much of the same as Sutton Park. They had also been discussing the differences between the two schools and had raised money in charity events. Their partner head is Pastor Cole.

Collingwood

Lydio and Kalim reported that they had put on a big show for Yatu, when she had visited in July. They had asked her lots of questions about life in Freetown.

Thanet

Samia and Charlie told us that their school was new to the project and that a member of staff was going out to the school on the 20th.

Winifred Holtby

Caitlan and Thomas informed us that their school council had been discussing a number of issues about Sierra Leone. They have been linked to Albert Academy for a number of years. They have talked about communications and how they could send letters and documentaries on DVD; their new school build and the possibility of sending equipment from the old building to Freetown. Also, they follow a programme called 'Solutions for the Planet', in which they look at ways to improve our world.

Bellfield

Tommy Lee and Aimee told us that their school was also new to the project and that a member of staff was going out to the school on the 20th. Barmmy had worked on a project which involved building a car from wires!

Pearson

Megan and Ruhan had described the show that they had put on for Yvette in July. This featured the year 5s and 6s rendition of a story about the Fire People.

Ings

Mitchell and Charlotte's school had collected money and sent out gifts for pupils and teachers.

Stepney

Mimi and Ronaldo's class had produced laminated table mats that had learning aids on them, as their partner school was a very dusty place, and paper became dirty, very quickly.

St. Richards

Callum, Rebecca and the rest of their friends had been filling the Christmas Shoe Boxes with gifts for Sierra Leone.

5. Forthcoming visit on the 17th – main focus for these schools

Mr Browning told the council that Matt Stephenson and Alan Jones were returning to Freetown on the 17th and that some schools were sending teachers over on the 20th. Abdur-Rahman and Adam explained how Sutton Park School was starting a recycling and litter-picking programme to link with one in Freetown. They were looking at how people in Freetown deal with rubbish – they tend to reuse rather than recycle.

Mrs Rule told us that Miss Benson, the Modern Foreign Language teacher at Winifred Holtby, was setting up a project with Albert Academy about waste management. She was starting with the question of 'How do we recycle in Hull and how do they recycle in Freetown?' Pupils from both schools would be considering the same questions.

6. Waste Management Initiative

We were delighted to have Liz Smith from the Waste Management Strategy for Hull City Council. Liz gave us a brilliant talk about the projects they are running with Freetown. Liz has not been to Freetown but her boss went in July and some of the Freetown Council officials have been over here until last Friday.

Liz told us that Hull and Freetown have been twin cities for over thirty years – one of the longest 'twinings' in the world! The reason for the relationship between the two cities stems back to William Wilberforce. In Hull, the land fill sites are used to put rubbish in. They are lined with clay and other materials to ensure it is looked after correctly. When a site is full, more clay is put on the top of it, then soil and trees/bushes. Liz's boss saw that in Freetown rubbish is just dumped into a hole in the ground. There are no wheelie bins, so rubbish lies around. People live in shanty towns on the rubbish. These people recycle some of the plastic and metal. Children walk over the rubbish without any shoes on their feet. Liz has been asked to help them write a strategy for this problem. She has emailed people in Nigeria. This is a country that is similar to Sierra Leone, with similar rubbish

waste problems. They are a few years further down the lines of tackling waste issues. For instance, the Nigerians have started to use wheelie bins.

Liz told us that there is an 'Institute of Waste Management', which tells us about how other countries manage their rubbish.

Liz asked the IPC councillors why do we need to do this? Pupil Councillors answered that if not it will get worse and worse. The rubbish could fall into the sea and poison plants and animals. It is important for the whole world!

When the Freetown officials came over in July, they saw different sites and events, such as the Freedom festival, KC Stadium, Holy Trinity Church etc but mainly they were here to see how waste is managed. They've seen landfill sites, incinerators, recycling plants. Liz told us that the waste that is put into our blue bins and then taken to a depot in Hull. Then it goes to the West Midlands to a 'Materials Recycling Facility', where cans are sorted by magnets; different plastics are blown off the conveyor belts; cardboard is next taken off followed by paper, which is picked off. All of these are then bagged up and sent to different places to make into new products. It takes one week to make a plastic bottle from a bottle that has been put in the blue bin.

When they returned to Freetown, the officials took lots a files, full of paper work, including the appropriate legislation, Hull's Education Pack and Job Descriptions for the various jobs that are involved in waste management. This is to help them put together a plan.

We thanked Liz for an interesting and informative talk. Pupil councillors suggested sending over wheelie bins or the green caddies. As an after thought Liz asked us what couldn't be recycled. It appears that polystyrene and cling film are the only things that can't!

7. A Council Logo

Mr Browning then told us that he had two tasks for us:

- To design a logo for the council. This will be made into badges and taken over on the Freetown visit on the 20th. Councillors need to design them tonight, so they can be sent to Mr Browning. It will be a tight deadline to have them completed before the 20th so they need to be sent quickly.
- For pupil councillors to write letters to be sent to their counterparts in Freetown. These need to be sent on the next visit, so they arrive in time for the Freetown IPC on the 29th October.

8. Any Other Business (A.O.B.)

Liz Smith reported that the new Winifred School would have a recycling facility.

9. Dates for the Next Meeting

Tuesday 30th November 2010 – Winifred Holtby School at 1.30pm