

A+ Group discussion with HT

23.02.2022

Summary notes

HT (Carol Kyle) and BPS Equalities lead (Jenny Dobie) met with a small group of Parents & Carers for 45mins, and gave an overview of the Race Equality & Anti-Racist initiatives they are putting into action at the moment.

These included:

- Staff training tomorrow focussed on 'How do we ensure our children's heritages are reflected in their learning experience in class?'
- School Books to support professional learning for staff and children's books which promote diversity:

HT: 'These are in school and whilst we call them our 'library of books' we don't mean that in the same way as a public borrowing library. We have been given recommended reading from the CEC for our professional development, which is great and we are happy to continue buying and sharing any recommended titles, they have all been well received by staff. It would be good if we could work with Morningside Library to read and share their books too, that may be the easiest way to share with adults in the community.'

Children's books: parental engagement through reading is a great way to share: I wondered if the Parent Council could fund any sets of books. That way, the new books could be integrated into our reading scheme and all the children take home as part of their reading homework. At the moment they are selecting from our school library. Having many sets of dual language books in each class would be great - we have added to them each year, but keeping them new and fresh, along with new titles would be superb.'

- School website Translation into Community languages:
HT: 'We are no longer able to use Google Translate and have had to remove it from our website. This is a great pity as it worked really well. We are awaiting information what we can use. As soon as I know more, I shall share. I am sorry

about this and disappointed as it was great to use. Not sure if families can do this independently? We added Information to support Bilingual Parents (from our EAL Teacher), I do hope this is of interest.'

- New 'Equalities Group/Reps' with children in school started this term.
 - Teaching staff are being supported to plan more diverse resources in their teaching plans, however ensuring consistency remains a challenge
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HT invited members of the A+ Group to an in-person catch-up at a date soon, to see some of these new resources and initiatives – as HT was unable to show these over Zoom today.

There were further questions for the HT from Parents & Carers that included:

- Q: how will children & their families hear about/know about these initiatives that are underway? Other than through Parent Pay, annual report, school website/social media?

A: 'The best way to do this will be by the children sharing their learning with their parents. This is the key to parental engagement and will help us help our children achieve many of their learning outcomes too. We shall continue to discuss this with our school team. All other ideas welcome. I have had some more ideas which I shall share with the SLT at our next SLT meeting.

In the past, parents asked we share information quickly, and Twitter was the platform most wanted (at that time). On a good note, you don't have to have a Twitter account to see the information we post on our website – just scroll down the photos. All other ideas welcome.'

- Q: how will the school seek more creative ways of bringing Global learning to special/themed weeks in the children's curriculum, like Burns Night/Scots Week or International Women's Day?

A: 'We shall discuss creativity in Themed events with the staff. Hopefully, we can achieve the traditional (Burns Poem for the competition and Cup) and new ideas each year. Class Teachers use Floor Book Planning, which seeks ideas from the children about what they would like to learn/ do in each topic. Giving thinking time and sharing with families, may be a way for everyone's ideas to be incorporated.'

- Q: Will the school support an 'International evening' event, where the full diversity of cultures and heritages of the school community can be celebrated?

A: 'Happy to discuss events for families with the Parent Council at the next meeting.'

Summary notes taken by Zaki El-Salahi, A+ Group Facilitator 23.02.2022

Notes checked for accuracy with Carol Kyle, Head Teacher 25.02.2022