

## Stanley Crook Primary School

### Re-evaluation for Investing in Children Membership

Stanley Crook Primary School is committed to learning that is fun, flexible and helps each child gain life long learning skills in a safe, healthy, dynamic, creative environment of mutual trust and respect.

The school is situated in the small village of Stanley Crook and currently has 77 pupils on its register. Pupils attend the school from the surrounding villages.

***“We currently have three classes but in September will have four. We don’t call them classes. We call them teams as we all try to work as a team in this school!”***

***“Reception and Year 1 are Team 1, Year 2 are Team 2, Years 3 and 4 are Team 3 and years 5 and 6 are Team 4”***

For the purpose of this years evaluation I visited the school and met with the following children: Lewis – School Council Chair, Rebecca – Vice Chair, Jordan – Anti Bullying Representative and Harry – Health and Safety Representative.

They showed me around their school and were keen to tell me all about their school and how they are involved in making decisions and changes to improve it.

Over the year the children at the school have been involved in the following:

#### Opportunities for Dialogue and Change

##### School Council

Children are elected onto the school council on a yearly basis. ***“Everyone in the school votes for two people in their year group. One boy and one girl are chosen. In each team there are four school council representatives”.***

The School Council mission is: ***“To try our best, to tell the truth, to look after each other and the community”.***

School council meetings usually take place once or twice a month. ***“We normally have a big agenda to talk about. Mrs Oswald usually brings things to talk about and we bring our ideas and other pupils”.***

##### Class Council

Class council meetings take place in each class usually on a Friday afternoon. This is when the suggestion boxes (Bright Ideas Boxes) are opened and discussed. The children told me: ***“We usually open the boxes in class council meetings. We have to pick out the three most important suggestions. We take these to the school council meeting for discussions”.***

##### Corridor Displays

Throughout my visit I was shown the vast amount of displays at the school which have been created by various pupils and by the teachers. Some of which include:

- Lambton Worm Story – **“Children in each class had a different part of the story to do. The displays are all along the corridor!”**
- Staying Healthy Posters – **“There are loads of staying healthy posters around the school. Children in the school designed them”**
- We are Stanley Crook Primary School – **“The children wanted to create a display for in the school. We all had our photos taken and made our own picture to go with the photo”**. This display is up in the main corridor.
- School Council Board – **“We have a school council board, it has our pictures on and the awards we have got and things we decide”**.
- Buddy Board – Pictures of school buddies are displayed on the board.
- What have you done at school today – The children told me that pupils had to say in a speech bubble next to their picture what they had done at school that day.
- School Banner – **“The children decided to make this”**

### Classroom Displays

As well as displays in the corridor, there are also displays in each class chosen and designed by the pupils. Some of which include:

- Class 3 – There is a friendship tree display in class 3. **“Pupils have to write something nice about each other that goes on the friendship tree”**
- Team 4 – **“Team 4 have the ‘my autobiography’ display”**
- News and Information Board - **“Team 4 also decided to have a news and information board in their class. The whole class wanted it so that if you forgot when something was happening in the school then you could go and look at the board and find out straight away when it is”**.
- Art Gallery – **“We wanted an art gallery. We can put our pieces of art on display now”**.

### Playground Charter

The children showed me the playground charter in each class. Pupils decided what should be on the charter and told me: **“It says things like: Take care of equipment, play sensibly and play appropriate games as well as tell an adult if there is an accident. We decided them”**

### Class Rules

In every class there are class rules. “Children decide in class council what the rules should be”.

In class 3 the rules were on display and included:

- Look after the class room
- Don't stand on the chairs
- Always do your best
- Always put your hands up
- Do what you are told

One pupil commented on the poster in the class: **“That's my work I drew that!”**

### New Equipment

Over the past year the children have been involved in choosing new equipment for the school. **“Each class had to make a list of the equipment they wanted for their class. They sent their lists to the school council and they looked at them”**

***and worked out what they could afford to get from the lists. Lots of new equipment was bought for each class. We spent over £340”.***

When I was in Team 1’s classroom I was shown the equipment the children chose for their class. ***“They wanted a little gym so they got a few bits including an exercise bike and rowing machine thing. They also said they wanted a new play shed so they picked one out of the catalogue and now have it!”***

***“In every class the children asked for laptops. There are now two in each class”***

***“We also got new equipment for the yard”***

### Suggestion Boxes

In every class and other parts of the school there are the following boxes:

- A bright Ideas Box
- A worry Box
- A parents suggestion box

***“Anyone can put an idea in which goes to Mrs Oswald and the school council”.***

### New Teachers

Pupils have been involved in choosing new teachers for their school. ***“Everyone in the class got a lesson from the teachers, we all had to vote on who we liked and wanted. We chose them!”***

### Fruit Bowls

The children told me that they all wanted bowls of fruit available in each classroom. ***“People used to through away there fruit outside after they had one bite of it. We now have a time out at the end of the lesson so we can eat our fruit and use the bins. We wanted this”.***

### Fundraising

Over the year the school has been involved in lots of fundraising activities. ***“For children in need we had to wear red and white spots. We raised £624.75”.***

### New Books

Team 4 told me that they had asked for the Roald Dahl books and got the book set.

### Cloakroom

Children at the school asked for a new cloakroom. ***“We chose the design and the colour scheme”.***

### Classroom Refurbishments

Several classrooms have been refurbished at the school. ***“We chose the colours that should be in the room and got the cupboards etc.... We also got new windows. It is loads better now!”***

### New Laptops

There are now 16 new laptops in the school following requests. All of the school council were involved in this process.

### Keep Fit

The children told me: ***"We have keep fit twice a week in the hall. We wanted this"***

### Vinegar

***"We asked for this so we could have them on our chips"***

### Recommendations

When I asked the young people if there was anything they would change about their school they replied saying: ***"We would change nothing its excellent the way it is!"***

### Conclusion

There was clear evidence throughout my visit of how children are involved in dialogue resulting in change. My report identifies the changes that have been made over the past year.

When I asked the children if they felt the school should receive the award they all said ***"yes..... they should definitely get the award!"***

***"It may be a small school but it's an excellent one. It's such a good school that people come from all over to get here"***

Therefore I have no hesitation but to recommend that Stanley Crook Primary School has its Investing in Children Membership renewed.

Well Done!

**Eleanor Caldwell  
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