

Joint School Council Minutes

Date: 07.07.17	
	Actions
Welcome and food	
<p>Presenting out 'Send my friend to School' letter.</p> <p>Welcome to Jan Garfield (former Mayor) who is coming to accept our letter on behalf of local council.</p> <p>We have been thinking about send my friend to school as part of our school council meetings this year.</p> <p>Discussion about what this has involved, how children in other countries are less fortunate than us, they can't all go to school, have a long way to travel, don't have the resources we have etc.</p> <p>Read through the letter we wrote as a council in the last meeting. All school councillors signed the letter and letter presented to Jan Garfield. Jan is seeing our local MP Teresa Coffey on Thursday so has kindly offered to pass our letter onto her and other local council members.</p>	
<p>Jan Kindly agreed to share her experiences of schools in Tanzania and India with us as she lived in Tanzania for 5+ years. Jan told us how lots of the schools in remote parts of Tanzania are very basic, children do not have books, computers, tables and chairs. They have to walk along way to school, but they do have a uniform and they are very proud of their uniforms- keeping them very clean and neat. Girls only go to school until they are around the age of 11, but boys stay until they are 15- is this fair? Girls have to go and help at home. Often the only hot meal they would have would be at school at lunchtimes. Food was always</p>	

healthy- fruit, vegetables, fish. Lots of the children lived in mud houses and the schools were often made of the same materials.

Children in remote Indian villages didn't have paper and pens, they have to write on slates using chalks and then rub away their work so they could do more. When visiting schools in India they always ask for paper and pens and books as these are a luxury. The girls in India finish school even younger as they are needed at home and are expected to help look after the house, relative other children. Boys continue I school until about 15. Some children don't go to school at all, even though it is the law there is noone to enforce the law so lots of children have no schooling.

Schooling in these countries is very different to here in the UK.

Questions from School Councillors included:

If Jan had given any pens and pencils to school?

Yes as often as we could.

Did you (Jan) go to those schools?

No but my children went to school in Tanzania, but they went to an international school and they are very different to the locals schools. International schools are like schools here so there is a very big divide between the rich and poor.

What did you eat in those countries?

Lots of healthy foods freshly grown fruit and veg, fresh fish, not crisps or chocolate or any treats like we get in shops here. They don't have big shops like Tesco or Morrison's.

<p>Where did you live?</p> <p>In a big modern house, I didn't work but my husband had a job. I was very lucky as I had local people who worked for us and they did the cooking and cleaning so I could play tennis and meet friends.</p>	
<p>Thank you to Jan for coming to speak to us.</p> <p>Thank you to all the school council members this year, especially our year sixes who have been to local youth council meeting with other local schools.</p>	

Meeting concluded at 12.45