

Thinking Technicians

Developing Thinking Skills at Wyndham Primary Academy

Children carried out an initial SEE, HEAR, FEEL audit on 7th February. Children went round the school in pairs and shared their overview of their findings with Mr Lowther (Assistant Head of School). Children spoke of a 'buzz of excitement', 'collaboration' and 'quality communication' between children and their peers and adults. They discussed next steps in the plan in training children at Fairfield Academy and in turn carrying out a SEE, HEAR and FEEL, something they feel very excited about. A word cloud created below to



Thinking Technicians got together again on Monday 20th February to show the Chair of Governors, Mr Weightman, how the scheme works and began to think about improvements and future developments. Technicians walked round with Mr Weightman and shared their views on the school. Children shared positive responses about the writing that they saw in KSI and spoke with Mr Brown (School Farmer), about how **ALL** children at the school will benefit from visits to the school farm.

Mr Lowther and Mr Weightman then met with children to share what they had found. They shared the fact that they had seen some improvements in some noise levels in year 2. They were positive in the fact that class displays looked colourful, some active learning was observed and that communication continued to be a strength. They felt that the school still had the 'Wyndham feel' to it. Mr Weightman asked the children what they would like to improve if they had the opportunity to which children highlighted:

- Books to be available for outside use
- Improved surface in the MUGA
- More colourful displays / images in the changing room corridor

Mr Lowther then asked children to think about thoughts for the development of a Thinking Technicians School Development Plan using what they had observed in both of their walks around the school. Mr Lowther also asked children how they feel sharing their findings with governors and at staff meetings. The Technicians again were very positive about this. This will form the basis of the next meeting with the Technicians.

Mr Lowther asked them to consider high impact low cost, low impact high cost when they develop their SDP and the children shared their ideas with Mr Lowther and Mr Weightman with regards to what would be a priority- in this case having some books available for outside use as the children feel there are books that are under used at school and would have a big impact on standards by allowing children to read more at break times and lunchtime.

Next steps:

- Date to be arranged with Fairfield to carry out a SEE, HEAR and FEEL visit and train children
- Develop a Thinking Technicians SDP
- Train other children at school in year 5 and 6 to be Thinking Technicians
- Present to staff at staff meeting, SLT and to governors their findings and impacts
- Visit other schools in the trust to share their experiences and skills

Thinking Technicians visited Fairfield Academy on Tuesday 28th March to carry out the same SEE, HEAR and FEEL audit as was done here at Wyndham.

During this time the Thinking Technicians shared their experiences and observations from their previous work at Wyndham. This helped the children at Fairfield to understand what they will look for when they carry out subsequent walks around their own school.

The Thinking Technicians also spoke with the Headteacher, Miss Stacey, who was interested to hear what the children had done and how they were to observe their school through a child's eyes. Miss Stacey also explained the layout of the school and that year 4 and 5 were not in school that day as they were out on a school trip.

The children then carried out a walk round school listening to the views of the Fairfield pupils as they did.



The Thinking Technicians completed a school development plan as they travelled around the school and at the end of the day shared their views with Mr Lowther. Both sets of pupils were complimentary about the school and reflected that it was calm, displays were very inspiring, children were eager to learn and thought the school library was a useful and welcoming learning space.



Together the children shared that they would like to see more scooter and bike racks to promote travelling to school without a car, more questioning of children and challenge in maths. These things were left with the children of Fairfield to share with the headteacher and staff.

We look forward to Fairfield visiting our school after Easter to see if they agreed with our own school development plan or if there is anything that they might observe on their travels here at Wyndham.

