

Minutes from Curriculum and Coffee meeting 23.11.18

Topics covered – Learning Stars, Website, Bug Club and Espresso.

Mrs Foster showed us the school website and how to find the minutes of these meetings.

Learning Stars were started by Miss Williams as a whole school initiative. Based on life learning skills that children will need later in life and as they grow up. They cover 6 main skills which are taught through 6 animal characters.

Curiosity – Curious Nemo (fish)

Resilience – Try Hard Trevor (tortoise)

Risk taking – Monica (monkey)

Team work – Bella Bee (bumble bee)

Pride – Simon spider (spider)

Improving – Betty Beaver (brown beaver)

Mrs Foster went through the characters one at a time and told us about each one.

Children are praised when they make good mistakes.

Don't worry if the children don't come home with them all the time as this encourages children to work a little harder to earn their tags. A lull at the moment is normal. Teachers use the language of praise. It's all about developing a love of learning and enthusiasm to try new things and identify themselves as a learner. Staff praise the effort and process and not the child. There is a 'star of the week' book that also celebrates their learning styles. Children are happy to talk about their learning and their learning style because of these characters and become happy to make mistakes.

BUG CLUB:

Mrs Foster showed us 'Bug Club' and demonstrated how it should be used. A discussion around reading developed and Mrs Foster shared with us that we don't need to read a whole book every night and that children who solely rely on phonics don't always make the best readers. Memory skills are vital in the ability to learn how to read. We discovered that in order for the book to go onto the bookshelf, the books must be completed by playing the 'bug' games. Look out for the 'Bug Club' logo on the pages and click on it to complete the activity.

ESPRESSO:

This learning platform is not individual or private but you can dip in and out at your children's level and interests through topics or curriculum areas. The children use Espresso to support teaching of new sounds and the Maths section supports the teaching of Maths.

Those who do not have internet access or a PC can use the school facilities with prior arrangement with Miss Mildinhal or Mrs Foster.

The next meeting will be focusing on early Maths teaching and home learning ideas.