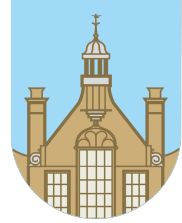




Riversdale Rights Representatives



AGENDA & MINUTES: 11/12/2017

Attendance: Isla (Year 6), Joshua (Year 6), Erin (Year 5), Remzy (Year 5), Victoria (Year 5), Sameet (Year 5), Lily (Year 4), Dylan (Year 4), Jack (Year 4), Cristina (Year 4), Heidi (Year 4), Kyla (Year 3), Kiyarn (Year 3), Angel (Year 2), Annabelle (Year 3) Toby (Year 2), Max (Year 2), Imogen (Year 2), Sikandar (Year 6), Ella (Year 6)

NB: The council members met throughout the fortnight between the previous meeting and the date above in smaller groups to have more focused and targeted discussions with Steven.

1. Actions taken from last meeting:

School council discusses that teachers were more actively acknowledging their responses to marking (purple pen work) and so they felt more confident that they were making the right steps forward. This will be revisited at a later date.

2. The Backpack Project: Assembly

During a whole school assembly, a selection of learning council members spoke to the students about the campaign. They explained in detail why the school will be participating in the campaign, and gave them some information about what Mary's Meals do and why it is important. Steven supported with this where necessary. As well as this, the students explained that there will be posters around the school and a letter going home that will explain this to the parents.

The learning council also read out the list of items for the students so that they can start thinking about what they might be able to donate.

Steven explained that the items did not need to be brand new, and that as long as they are in good condition, the students and their families could donate something that has been used. A great example of this is clothing.

3. The Backpack Project: Marketing

Over the last two weeks, a number of the council members used their break and lunch times to help put together some marketing materials for the Backpack Project campaign.


A series of posters were put together which listed the various items that people could donate to help us put together the backpacks to be sent to Malawi. The posters had pictures to help the younger children see exactly what is expected.

Several students came together to help write a letter to parents to explain the campaign and why it is important for us as a rights respecting school. This was important as one of our goals as a council at the moment is to increase parent awareness of the UNCRC and their involvement in the council/school's campaigns related to it.

Steven also wrote a letter to parents to give them further background into Mary's Meals and both of these letters were sent home to parents at the end of term to ensure that they had time to think about what they could donate over the Christmas period.



Please see the letters that were sent home below:



Riversdale Primary School
Address: 302a Merton Road, Southfields, London, SW18 5JP
Telephone: 020 8874 6904

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: The Backpack Project

As you are aware, Riversdale Primary School is a Rights Respecting school. We undertake a number of events, across the school year, to raise awareness of local, national or global social issues through campaigning, or raising money for a wide range of good causes.

As we approach the Christmas holidays, we encourage the children to think of those less fortunate than ourselves and consider how we could support them. The student council, made up of representatives from each class, have decided that they would like Riversdale to campaign for a charity called Mary's Meals. This charity work for children across Africa, to ensure that they have access to at least one healthy and nutritious meal each day, whilst they are at school, to help them grow, develop and learn as best they can.

In addition to this, Mary's Meal runs a campaign called The Backpack Project, which is what our students would like to work on. The students discovered that education comes at a price in many countries across the world and that they are fortunate enough to not only have free primary and secondary education, but that the equipment used to learn is provided by the school. Many schools across the world cannot afford to provide children with some of the basic equipment needed.


Rather than donating money, the Backpack Project asks that people donate equipment to make each child their very own backpack for school. The completed backpacks are then shipped to primary schools across Malawi, so that the children have the much-needed resources for learning.

We are asking if every child at Riversdale could do their best donate **at least one** item of equipment on the list provided, to help make learning possible for the children of Malawi. These do not need to be brand new, but can be used items that the children no longer want, need or fit in to. The only items that must be new are soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste for hygiene reasons. We ask that all donated items are sent in by **Friday 26th January 2017**.

We hope that you are able to support the children in this campaign and look forward to sending off our wonderful backpacks in January.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Sousa
Assistant Head Teacher / Year 6 Class Teacher
***Please see the reverse for a letter from the student council and list of items requested.**



Website: www.riversdaleschool.org.uk Twitter: [@RiversdalePS](https://twitter.com/RiversdalePS) Email: info@riversdale.wandsworth.sch.uk

Dear parents/carers,

Many children receiving Mary's Meals, school dinners provided by a charity of the same name, don't have basic learning equipment. So, we would like to tell you about the backpack project. The project involves giving a series of vital items to a child in Malawi, who can't afford to buy the things they need for school.

You can support them by donating at least one of the items from the list below so that we can put together backpacks (which is another thing that is needed), for the children.

For many children, a Mary's Meal backpack will be the first gift they have ever received.

What to pack

These items can be used but should be in good condition:

- Backpack
- Notepad
- Pens, pencils, crayons
- Eraser, ruler, sharpener, pencil case
- Towel
- Shorts or skirt, t-shirt or dress
- Flip-flops or sandals
- Small ball
- Spoon

These items must be new for hygiene purposes:

- Soap, toothbrush, toothpaste

Yours sincerely,

The Riversdale Learning Council



Wanted Items	
Backpack/School Bag	
Stationery/Books/Notebook	
Pens/Pencils	
Eraser	
Ruler	
Sharpener	
Pencil Case	
Towel	
Shorts/Skirt & T-shirt or Dress	
Flip Flops/Sandals	
Small Ball eg Tennis Ball	
Spoon	
Toothbrush	
Toothpaste	
Soap	

To help engage the parents even more, Steven posted information about the campaign on the school website and on the school's twitter account. Steven tagged Mary's Meals in the tweets and also included a link to a useful video that the parents could watch at home with their children to learn more about the charity's work.



Riversdale Primary @RiversdalePS · Dec 18

Parents/Carers, if you want a little more information about the @MarysMeals Backpack Project, checkout this video. m.youtube.com/watch?v=UdWvWV...

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Riversdale Primary @RiversdalePS · Dec 18

Parents/Carers, keep a look out for the Learning Council letter in PACT folders this week. It details the students' latest campaign choice. We will be working on the Backpack Project with @MarysMeals. #UNCRC #RRSA #SustainableDevelopment



The Backpack Project:
The perfect companion to Mary's Meals

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NEXT STEPS: The learning council will do another assembly for the students to remind them about the campaign after the Christmas break. Steven will speak to the PTC about the campaign and ask them to encourage the parents and carers to get involved with this also.