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Headteacher: Mr Ryan O'Hearn, BA (Hons)

Tuesday 11th September

Pupil Voice

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Freegrounds Junior School, we are passionate about instilling a culture where children know they are listened to, and that their thoughts and ideas have impact and can drive change. Members of our staff work alongside nominated children to form a range of active pupil groups. These roles are accompanied by additional responsibilities which see the children attend meetings, complete projects, lead assemblies, feedback to their peers and much more. We feel that children having a contribution in regards to changes and improvements in our school is an important value to instil and, as such, we also feel that many benefits arise as well. Whilst pupil voice is important to drive change, we also recognise many other benefits, such as:

- Developing pupil confidence through collaborating with staff and their peers
- Establishing effective communication skills through attending meetings and feeding back on these to their classmates
- Instilling learning behaviours such as reflection, critical thinking and independence
- Developing leadership skills
- Increasing pupil participation and their intrinsic motivation

This year, we have decided to change the way many of our pupil voice groups are elected. Rather than class representatives being voted for by their peers, children will be required to write a letter of application to the relevant teacher in charge of the group they'd like to represent. We feel that this will ensure that only children who are truly committed to the role apply for it. In the past, we have experienced children who have been voted in by their peers based on popularity and false promises (e.g. if you vote for me I will make sure we have extra breaktime every day) rather than their genuine desire to represent their class in a particular area.

We recognise that for some children writing a letter may pose significant challenge. We want to emphasize that we are keen to hear children's ideas and passion for the role and will not be making decisions based on English ability. If your child struggles to write and would benefit from typing or having an adult at home scribe for them, that is absolutely fine. We are keen to hear your child's thoughts and ideas about how they think they could improve our school and why they would be good for the role and this can absolutely be scribed by a parent or carer.

Please find information about the roles that can be applied for below. **Please note, we are not changing how house captains are elected and this will still be decided by a democratic vote by the children during the housecaptain elections on Monday 16th September.** Letters of application should be handed in by your child to their class teacher by Wednesday 18th September at the latest. A decision will be made, and children notified on Friday 20th September. The children should only write one letter for their preferred job. If they would like to be considered for another job, they can indicate this in the letter (e.g. please also consider me for the role of ...).

As always, please do contact us if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Mrs Blake and Mrs Davies
(Assistant Headteachers)

Job Descriptions

School Council- Mrs Blake

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

One representative from each class will be chosen.

Some of the key responsibilities of School Councillors include:

- Listening to the ideas and views of your classmates and sharing these clearly in meetings
- Feeding back information to your classmates
- Discussing ideas from across the school and making decisions about things that affect school, such as; events, lunchtimes, playtimes, etc.
- Deciding how to spend extra money that we may have available to benefit the whole school
- Making changes that you believe will make your school a better place to be
- Being a role model in terms of attitude, attendance, behaviour, and manners to all members of the Freegrounds community
- Collaborating effectively with the other School Councillors
- Helping members of staff with additional jobs or events as required

Learning Council- Mr O'Hearn

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

One representative from each class will be chosen.

Some of the key responsibilities of Learning Councillors include:

- Attending meetings with Mr O'Hearn and the other Learning Councillors to discuss how teaching and learning could be made better at Freegrounds Junior School
- Sharing information from these meetings and feeding this back to our classmates
- Listening to the ideas and views of your classmates and sharing these clearly in meetings
- Collaborating with the other Learning Councillors
- Being a role model to other children and consistently demonstrating good learning attitudes
- Creating and delivering Learning Behaviour assemblies and supporting staff with learning based events

Reading Ambassador- Mrs Davies

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

One representative from each class will be chosen.

Reading Ambassadors will promote a love of reading and books within their classroom and across the school. They will work with Mrs Davies to continue raising the profile of reading for pleasure across the school. The main duties include:

- Attend a half-termly, lunchtime meeting with Mrs Davies (possibly more in the lead-up to reading events)
- Support class teachers to keep book corners tidy and well-stocked with exciting and relevant books
- Encourage others to read
- Prepare book recommendations for others
- Support in the organisation of whole-school events to promote reading e.g. World Book Day, Readathons etc.
- Share new ideas for promoting reading in their class and across the school

Eco-rep- Mrs Durack

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

One representative from each class will be chosen.

Some of the key responsibilities of Eco-Reps include:

- Listening to the ideas and views of your classmates and sharing these clearly in meetings
- Feeding back information to your classmates
- Encouraging everyone in our school – and the wider school community – to develop an awareness of how to be as eco-friendly as we can be.
- Developing strategies and initiatives to help our commitment to recycling, energy efficiency and wildlife preservation.
- Helping in the organising and running of eco-themed events.

ICT monitor- Mr Banham

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

One representative from each class will be chosen.

Some of the key responsibilities of ICT monitors will include:

- Encourage children in your class to use ICT equipment appropriately
- Alongside the other ICT monitors in your year group, ensure Chrome books are charged
- Ensure ICT equipment is put away correctly after use
- Work with Mr Banham to develop use of ICT across the curriculum

Digital Ambassador- Mr Banham

Years 5 and 6

One representative from each class will be chosen.

Some of the key responsibilities of Digital Ambassadors will include:

- Listening to the ideas and views of your classmates and sharing these clearly in meetings
- Feeding back information to your classmates
- Encouraging everyone in our school – and the wider school community – to develop an awareness of how to be safe online.
- Developing strategies and initiatives to support internet safety
- Helping in the organising and running of e-safety events

Librarian- Mrs Whettingsteel

Year 6

Some of the key responsibilities of Pupil Librarians will include:

- Ensuring that the books in the library and outdoor reading area are organised appropriately
- Assisting with events, such as; book fairs and author visits
- Contribute to the library feeling a positive and exciting place to be
- Share ideas with Miss Whettingsteel about how to improve the library and other opportunities to read

Play Leader- Mrs Blake
Year 5 and 6

Some of the key responsibilities of Play Leaders will include:

- Ensuring that the lunchtime play equipment is set out and packed away appropriately each lunchtime
- Work with Mrs Blake to develop new breaktime and lunchtime initiatives
- Supervise, support and deliver activities at lunchtime
- Help develop rules and routines for the new outside area when it is finished in November
- Encourage creative use of the manipulative play areas
- Support lunchtime supervisors