



### **School Garden Council**

#### **Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Attendees: Nathan, Gabriel, Heidi, Hugo, Izzy and Eimear**

**Apologies for absence: George and Christopher (cycling proficiency), Dillon (off sick)**

The meeting commenced with an address from Mrs Weeks introducing a scheme to convert St. James' into a Plastic Free School. Many pupils had asked that St. James' become more 'environmentally friendly' and this programme allows us to look at, and change, some of the practises that we presently adopt as they relate to plastic usage. Mrs Weeks was keen that this scheme be adopted by the Garden Council as they could spearhead and oversee its implementation. All members present were very keen to do as much as possible to ensure that the school attains 'Plastic Free' status as they had been horrified, in the past, at how much plastic waste they had collected during litter picks of the school grounds. The children thanked Mrs Weeks for her support.

The meeting moved on to discuss any growing ideas for the school garden submitted by their classes and noted in their journals. It was good to see that there had been a number of suggestions from some – other year reps would encourage their friends to write in the books. Most suggestions were already 'in the pipeline' e.g. Onions, soft fruit, broccoli and cabbages. Slightly more ambitious suggestions e.g. Coconuts, bananas, pineapples, lemons and limes were discounted as St. James' does not have the appropriate climate or growing conditions.

The children then asked whether they could carry out a bird watch in the school garden. Mrs Deasy advised that she was very disappointed that the RSPB had not responded to her request for a bird watching pack for the Big Garden Birdwatch but that she had matters in hand and would be contacting a local group for their support.

Mrs Deasy mentioned that she had already entered the school into several competitions this year and that the school garden would need to be in tip top shape for the school anniversary celebrations.

Finally, the children mentioned the possibility of a fund raiser to help raise monies for the school garden. A cake sale was suggested however, it was hoped that it could be entirely homemade using vegetables as the main ingredient. Mrs Deasy asked if the children could leave the idea with her and she would discuss with Mrs Weeks.