

INTERNATIONAL P4C CONFERENCE

From Sunday May 27th to Wednesday May 30th the Xiehe education group hosted an International P4C Conference, titled '**Listening to the Voices of Children**'. The conference and conferences related activities brought the why and how of P4C practice together with expert speakers, workshops, school visits and trainings hosted by International P4C experts and practitioners.

Roger Sutcliffe, one of the founders of the P4C in the U.K, put forward the following thought-provoking question: "A 4-year-old child asks an average of 20 to 30 questions per hour, but when they go to school, the rate drops sharply. Why does this happen?" P4C attaches great importance to listening to children's language and guiding children to think, raise and discuss questions they feel are of importance to them; hence, the title of the Conference, '**Listening to the Voices of Children**'.

Roger Sutcliffe spent Monday, 28 May at Fortune Dongfang to assess our school for the prestigious 'P4C Model School' award. We are happy to inform families that Fortune Dongfang met all of the criteria for the award and is now the only school outside of the UK to receive P4C Model School status.

Congratulations to all of the teachers, children and staff for their efforts over the years in developing a high quality P4C program!



Roger Sutcliffe P4C Expert from the UK and Founder of "DialogueWorks"



Keynote Speaker Tenured Professor of Philosophy, Tong Shijun at East China Normal University



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MAY & JUNE ENQUIRIES IN K1 CLASSES

With a focus on traditional stories and fairy tales, May's P4C centered around the concept of 'heroes and villains'. A topic that was very popular with the children, this session stimulated many questions and a lively discussion.

After viewing a classical superhero cartoon clip, one of the classes chosen question was 'why did the man change into the bad green man?'. The discussion was productive; the children talked about what happens when they and others get angry, what makes them angry and whether good guys can do bad things. We ended with each child telling the class what they would rather be - hero or villain, and why.

June's universe theme led us to thinking about the possibility of life outside of earth. We played a fun drawing game where we created our own class alien. We then pondered upon what life might be like for an alien and created many interesting questions for our aliens.

Our K1 students have certainly developed their thinking, question making skills and ability to participate in a discussion this school year. They are well on their way to some very philosophical discussions in K2!



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MAY & JUNE ENQUIRIES IN K2 CLASSES

May and June bring the beginning of many changes in the life of our K2 students. Decisions have been made about primary school and the students are in the midst of their last weeks in kindergarten. In preparation for this, we had the students choose between two options:

1. Stay in kindergarten
2. Go to primary school

The results among the K2 classes varied, showing that some children want to stay at Fortune Kindergarten and some want to go to primary school. The following are a few reasons that the students gave for their decision:

Go to Primary School:

- Because I can learn many new things and become smarter.
- Because my new school has a swimming pool.
- Because I have already learned everything in Kindergarten and I can't learn anything else here.

Stay in Fortune Kindergarten:

- Because I do not want to hear the loud bells they have at primary school.
- Because I want to play with my friends. I like my friends at Fortune.
- Because I will miss my teachers.

We know that this year's K2 students have grown through P4C over the past several years and hope that they will continue to use the skills learned in P4C as they move into primary school.





FORTUNE KINDERGARTEN

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