

A visit from Councillor Puri

Today we had an important guest come to talk to our class – Susan Puri, our newest local **councillor**. Councillor Puri spoke about her work as a member of our local government and about what the local government does for us.

According to Councillor Puri, the members of local governments are usually called councillors and are **elected** by the people who live in their area. Councillor Puri was elected by the people who live in a small area of the city, an area called a ward. In council meetings, she represents the people of her ward.

Most councillors also work full-time jobs, as well as serving on the council. Councillor Puri works as a pharmacist. She's a very busy person!



Councillor Puri's visit

councillor a member of a council
elected chosen to do a job by voters in an election

Councillor Puri told us that local governments take care of many services we can't live without, which include waste removal and recycling. They also look after public facilities such as pools, libraries, parks and roads.

Another important job of councils is to check the designs of new buildings to make sure they are safe and look good with the buildings around them. Councillor Puri explained that this was one of the hardest parts of her job. She said a lot of people want to make changes to existing buildings or build new houses and can get very unhappy when the council says no to their plans!

Councillor Puri told us that councils do a lot to make life more interesting for their residents, such as organising festivals and arts events. They also make rules about pets. For example, they decide how pets should be **registered**, and where they can run free.

We learnt a lot from Councillor Puri. She encouraged us to get involved in our local council. She said we should write to them with ideas to improve the local area and encouraged us to join in with council leisure activities.



Children join in a festival organised by their local council

registered recorded by the council so they can help find them if they go missing