COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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3rd January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back to a New Year 2025: A Few Reminders to Start the Spring Term

I hope this letter finds you well and that you've enjoyed a rejuvenating Christmas break with your families and friends. Reflecting on last term, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the tremendous support shown by our Collis community. From the magnificent Christmas concerts to the thoughtful cards, messages, and gifts we received, your kindness and encouragement have been deeply appreciated.

Supporting Children's Routines
As we embark on the spring term of 2025, it's important to help the children settle back into their routines after the holidays. Simple steps, such as maintaining regular bedtimes, swapping screens for books, discussing the return to school positively, and reintroducing structured daily activities, can make a significant difference. These small actions foster readiness and enthusiasm for the term ahead, ensuring a smooth and confident start for all our pupils.

Focus on Reading
Following our recent feature on *The One Show*, we are even more inspired to promote a love of reading. Reading lies at the heart of learning, and continuing to foster this habit at home will greatly enrich your child's educational journey. Sharing books, exploring new vocabulary, and sparking your child's imagination through stories are wonderful ways to deepen their love of reading.

Uniform and Standards
At Collis, we take pride in our school community and maintain high expectations for pupil uniform and conduct. Please ensure that your child attends school each day in full Collis School uniform, clearly labelled with their name. With this colder weather, pupils should also wear suitable outdoor coats.

A few reminders:

- Jewellery should be limited to a pair of studs.
- Black leather school shoes are required.
- Long hair should be tied up with neutral-coloured hair ties.
- Trainers are *not* allowed on non-PE days (except for Early Years, who may wear black trainers or gym shoes).
- On PE days, children may wear their PE kits to school, but please ensure they have a change of shoes for the field (Years 1–6).

Being Healthy: Snack Guidelines and Water Bottles
Healthy Snacks for Break Time
For Infant (KS1) pupils, fruit is provided by the school, so there is no need to bring additional snacks. For Junior (KS2) pupils, we encourage bringing a healthy snack, ideally fruit or vegetables. Other suitable options include low-sugar cereal bars (nut-free), crackers, rice cakes, malt loaf, or breadsticks. Please avoid snacks high in sugar, salt, or saturated fats.

Snack guidelines for Junior (KS2) pupils:

1. Bring fruit or vegetables whenever possible.
2. Avoid nuts, nut products, chocolate, crisps, sweets, cakes, biscuits, or fizzy drinks.
3. Grain, bread, protein, or dairy snacks are fine if they are nut-free and low in sugar and salt.

Water Bottles
Please ensure your child brings a labelled water bottle to school daily. Staying hydrated supports health and learning, helping children remain focused and energised. Water, rather than sugary drinks or juice, is encouraged to promote healthy habits.

Attendance and Punctuality
The first week of term sets the tone for excellent attendance and punctuality. Research shows a strong link between consistent attendance and high academic achievement. To support this, the school gates will open at 8:40 am and close promptly at 8:50 am, ensuring pupils are seated and ready to begin learning on time. If your child is unwell, please notify the school office as soon as possible.

Safeguarding Reminder
The safety and wellbeing of every child remain our highest priority. Should you have any concerns, do not hesitate to contact our Designated Safeguarding Leads or refer to the resources available on our website: https://www.collis.richmond.sch.uk/safeguarding/

Supporting the Collis School Parents Association (CSA)
The CSA continues to play a vital role in enriching our school community. Led by Cindy, Helen, Anna, and now Julia — who recently joined as CSA Communications & Partnerships — the team works tirelessly to support our school. Please consider helping them if you are able. The next AGM is on **Friday, 31st January, at 9:00 am**. Your participation and ideas are always welcome.

Key Term Dates
All the term dates from Spring 2025 to Summer 2026 are available on our school website:
https://www.collis.richmond.sch.uk/term-dates/

Finally, I extend my warmest wishes for a happy and healthy 2025. For Collis, the new year brings a sense of fresh promise and excitement, and I am confident that, together, we can make it another remarkable and successful year for our children and community.

Let us embrace the opportunities ahead and ensure 2025 is a year of growth, joy, and success for all.

I look forward to seeing everyone on **Monday 6th January 2025**.

Best wishes,

K.J. Hogston

Kevin Hogston
Head Teacher

National Support School designated by National College for Teaching & Leadership
Ofsted Outstanding School 2014|2015
School Games Gold 2022/23
We have achieved
Travel for Life Gold
Primary Science Quality Mark Silver Award
Healthy Schools London Bronze Award