COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Email: info@collis.richmond.sch.uk
Headteacher: Kevin Hogston
Lead Assistant Heads: Melissa Humphries and Sophie Macartney

Monday, 4th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back! - Start of Term Arrangements and Key Information

I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday filled with rest and relaxation. I trust that, like the school staff, you and your family are now feeling refreshed and ready to embark on the new academic year at Collis. I genuinely hope that not too many of you were affected by the disruptive delayed flights returning to the UK due to air traffic control issues, as I know this has caused some difficulties for some of our families.

The first days back to school are always filled with excitement, especially for the children (and parents!), as we reunite with friends and meet their new teachers. We would like to extend a warm and special welcome to our new pupils and their families as they join the Collis community.

Our dedicated staff and I are eagerly anticipating the return of the children on Wednesday, 6th September (with different start dates for Early Years pupils). We have been working hard over the summer and officially return today. We are well-prepared and ready to support and challenge the pupils on their return.

Update on Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC):

You may have read recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete, and concerns have been raised about its long-term durability due to its lower strength compared to regular concrete. The Department for Education (DfE) has recently revised its guidance on the management of RAAC in educational settings to adopt a more precautionary approach. As a result, some schools will be closed at the start of the new term.

I want to assure you that Collis School is not affected by this decision because we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings. Therefore, our school will continue to operate as usual. Our thoughts are with the 154 schools (and counting) that are currently grappling with closures at the start of term due to this issue. It is indeed a challenging and unbelievable situation for them. Fortunately, at Collis, we recently completed a £6 million building project, providing our children with modern, safe facilities.

If you wish to learn more about the support for managing RAAC safely in educational settings, please refer to the article published by the DfE on the Education Hub: "RAAC Estates Guidance."
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reinforced-autoclaved-aerated-concrete-estates-guidance

Teachers' Industrial Action Called Off:

Back in late July, you may have heard that thankfully the school strikes in England have been called off after teachers and school leaders in four education unions voted to accept the government's 6.5% pay offer. This development puts an end to concerns about widespread disruption in the autumn term. This is great news for everyone. At Collis, we want to again express our gratitude to our parents for their support during the strikes, and, importantly, look forward to an uninterrupted year of learning in school with the children.

It is worth highlighting that while we welcome the pay deal, it is important to acknowledge that fundamental challenges persist in the education state sector, including issues related to recruitment, retention, and long-term funding security for schools. However, these discussions are best left for another day, and for now, we are relieved that the government has properly funded the pay rises, allowing us to focus on our primary goal of teaching our pupils effectively.

Class Curriculum Meetings:
Next week, we will be hosting class curriculum meetings for Reception to Year 6. These essential meetings will provide you with an update on your child's new year group and an overview of the school from me, the Head Teacher. Each meeting will last approximately one hour, with the final fifteen minutes allocated for visiting your child's classroom.
Please plan to arrive at the Harlequin Hall by 9:00 am on the date indicated for your child's year group, entering via the car park entrance. We are all looking forward to this chance to reconnect and share valuable information.

Key Term Dates: Here are some important term dates to note:
Monday, 4th: INSET DAY for staff training - school closed to children
Tuesday, 5th: INSET DAY for staff training - school closed to children
Wednesday, 6th: School starts for Years 1 to 6
Tuesday, 12th: Year 1 Curriculum Meeting for parents at 9:00 am in the Harlequin Hall
Wednesday, 13th: Year 2 Curriculum Meeting for parents at 9:00 am in the Harlequin Hall
Wednesday, 13th to Friday, 15th: Staggered start dates for Receptions & Nursery
Thursday, 14th: Year 4 Curriculum Meeting for parents at 9:00 am in the Harlequin Hall
Friday, 15th: 9:00 am CSA Meeting followed by Q&A with the Head Teacher – Colliseum Hall
Monday, 18th: Year 3 Curriculum Meeting for parents at 9:00 am in the Harlequin Hall
Tuesday, 19th: Year 6 Curriculum Meeting for parents at 9:00 am in the Harlequin Hall
Wednesday, 20th: Year 5 Curriculum Meeting for parents at 9:00 am in the Harlequin Hall
Thursday, 21st: Reception Curriculum Meeting for parents at 9:00 am in the Harlequin Hall
For a comprehensive list of term dates, please visit the Collis website:
https://www.collis.richmond.sch.uk/term-dates/

Supporting the Collis School Parents Association (CSA):
Our next CSA meeting will take place on Friday, 15th September, in the Colliseum hall. This meeting is the first CSA meeting of the year, so please attend if you are able. More than ever, we need parents to get involved and support the CSA. The meeting will also feature a Q&A session with the Head Teacher, where we will discuss the plans, vision, Ofsted updates, school finances, and other important matters for the upcoming year. If you have any questions for the head teacher, please submit them in advance via info@collis.richmond.sch.uk by Tuesday, 12th September.

Attendance & Punctuality:
As we commence the new academic year, it is important to emphasize the direct link between excellent attendance and high academic achievement. Our expectation is that pupils attend school punctually and consistently every day. We made significant progress last year in ensuring that pupils arrived at school on time, and we aim to continue this positive trend.
If your child is unwell, please remember to notify us via the school office. To ensure that pupils are seated in their classrooms by our 8:50 am start time, we will open the school gates earlier at 8:40 am and close them promptly at 8:50 am.

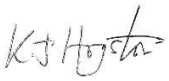
New Drop-off and Pick-up Times:
Nursery AM: Drop-off - 8.35 am to 8.45 am, Pick-up - 3.30 pm
Reception, Year 1, and Year 2: Drop-off - 8.40 am for an 8.50 am start, Pick-up - 3.15 pm
Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, and Year 6: Drop-off - 8.40 am for an 8.50 am start, Pick-up - 3.20 pm

Uniform and Standards:
At Collis, we take pride in our school community and maintain high expectations for student uniform and conduct. We believe that this is a fundamental aspect of fostering a culture of high expectations and achievement. Therefore, we kindly request that all students wear full Collis School uniform every day. Regarding jewellery, the only permitted items are a pair of studs. Rings, bracelets, and necklaces should not be worn by students. In terms of footwear, students are required to wear black leather school shoes; trainers, canvas shoes, or boots are not permitted (except for Early Years).
On PE days, pupils can attend school in PE kits.

Thursday Class Cake Sales new format:
This year, we are introducing a new approach to cake sales. Each week, a different class will have the opportunity to sell cakes on Thursdays. The funds raised each week will directly benefit that class, allowing them to purchase books for their class book corner. The parent representatives will be updated on the rota. Additionally, there will be designated weeks to raise money for charitable causes, in addition to the regular class sales. The first sale will be on Thursday 21st September 6D.

And finally…
I hope you enjoy the remainder of your summer holidays. As we are expecting a mini-heatwave upon our return to school, please don't forget to apply sun lotion and provide sun hats and water bottles. We look forward to seeing you and your children on Wednesday for another exciting year filled with growth, learning, and wonderful memories. Together, let's make this school year the best one yet.

Warm regards,



Kevin Hogston
Head Teacher

School Games Gold 2021/22
Helen Arkell 2016 Believe Achieve Succeed The Dyslexia-SpLD Trust
National Support School designated by National College for Teaching & Leadership
Primary Science Quality Mark Silver Award
STARS A TfL Community Project Gold level accreditation 2019
Ofsted Outstanding School 2014|2015