COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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2 May 2023

Dear Year 2, 3 and 4 Parents and Carers

Update on Class Reorganisation for September 2023

Thank you to the parents who have contacted the school to provide their feedback on the class reorganisation for Years 2, 3 and 4. We have received a range of views on the decision to reorganise the classes. Importantly and thankfully, all opinions and feedback have been constructive which we do appreciate on such an emotive issue.

For clarity and openness, we thought it would be useful to publish some of your questions and our answers to keep everyone informed and updated on the next steps.

Question: Will there be another Parent Focus Group (PFG) meeting to discuss this class re-organisation, ideally before the next PFG in June?
Answer: Yes, there will be an additional PFG meeting during the week beginning Monday 15th May, please forward your communications to your year group representative.
https://www.collis.richmond.sch.uk/parent-focus-group/

Question: I understand the current Year 6 cohort was mixed at the end of Year 4. Can the Year 6 pupils share their experiences with our children to reassure them that it worked out well?
Answer: Yes. There will be a joint Year 2, 3 and 4 assembly on Wednesday 3rd May where children in Year 6 will share their experiences and answer any questions from the pupils. We will link Year 6 pupils to the individual classes as transition mentors.

Question: The sending out of the letter was poorly timed.
Answer: In future we will canvass opinions from the PFG on the best timing for such a letter.

Question: In hindsight, do the current Year 6 parents and pupils think the re-shuffle was a good thing two years on?
Answer: Overwhelmingly so. Many parents and pupils were unsure at the start, but now the vast majority think it was a positive experience, preparing children for Year 7 while making a wider friendship group at Collis.

Question: The letter came as a complete surprise to me, was this discussed previously?
Answer: The topic has been discussed many times at the PFG meeting. During the class curriculum meetings in September 2022 we outlined we would update parents around this time – the slides are on the Collis website under your year group.
https://www.collis.richmond.sch.uk/topic/curriculum

Question: Do the Collis teachers think this is a good idea?
Answer: They are unanimously in favour. We were aware that some classes were being labelled and gaining unhelpful and negative reputations.

Question: Will Year 2, 3 and 4 have earlier Summer transitions to help them get ready for September?
Answer: Yes, we will announce the class teaches for these year groups in advance. All these year groups will have experienced teachers in September.

Question: How have some of the classes become unbalanced?
Answer: Children develop in different ways and, as a result, their needs may change and alter over time. This has affected the make-up and dynamics of the class. Mobility can also be an issue with children leaving and new pupils joining Collis. As a school, we need to ensure that year group classes are roughly equal in gender, ability, SEND and behaviour issues. As an inclusive community school, we have a duty to ensure all pupils have the same educational experience and opportunities whichever class they are in.

Question: When the new classes are formed how many pupils from the old class will be in the new class?
Answer: Roughly a third of the pupils (10 pupils).

Question: Are there any other positives for mixing classes apart from the equality point?
Answer: Yes, many local schools systematically mix classes even if they haven't become uneven. One school in Richmond mixes every class every year while others mix at the end of Reception, Year 2 and Year 4. Other positives include opportunities to make new friendships and to learn with different children. It also helps prepare pupils for secondary school where this is the norm. From experience, we have seen pupils that are underconfident or anxious gain the most from class mixing in preparation for Year 7.

Please rest assured that we will do our best for each child to ensure their transition to their new class and year group is as smooth as possible so they will be confident and excited about their new class for September.

If you are planning to leave Collis at the end of this school year, it would be very helpful if you could let us know before we start the process. Please will you email Jayne King at jking@collis.richmond.sch.uk by Friday 19th May.

Yours faithfully

Kevin Hogston	**Mrs Brookes**	**Mrs Laffoley-Green**	**Mrs Kelsey**
Head Teacher	**Year 2 Leader**	**Year 3 Leader**	**Year 4 Leader**

School Games Gold 2018/19
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