COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Fairfax Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9BS
Phone: 020 8977 1458 www.collis.richmond.sch.uk
Email: info@collis.richmond.sch.uk
Head Teacher: Kevin Hogston
Lead Assistant Heads: Sophie Macartney, Melissa Molnar and Carrie Stanton

25 April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Advance Update on Class Reorganisation for September 2023

We are writing to update you on the future organisation of some year groups in preparation for September 2023. As you will be aware, there have been many discussions across our different school forums on mixing classes at Collis.

In the past, Collis has only mixed classes if a year group has become unbalanced and this cannot be remedied in any other way. This has not happened very often. Most recently, our current Year 6 was reduced from four to three classes due to a decrease in pupil numbers over a period of years.

Since the pandemic, we have identified a number of year groups where the three classes are no longer balanced. There are various reasons why this has happened. New children have joined us and others have left since the classes were formed in Reception. The children develop in different ways and, as a result, their needs may alter, affecting the make-up and dynamics of the class.

As a school, we have a duty to provide equality for our pupils, we want all our pupils to have the same opportunities. In this academic year, we have put additional adult support into these year groups to reduce the imbalance. However, it has become clear that a re-organisation would be a beneficial for September.

As a result, to ensure that every child in the school will have an equal experience of the educational provision provided at Collis, we will shuffle three year groups.

Current Year 2 (Co-ordinated by Mrs Stanton/ Mrs Brookes)
Current Year 3 (Co-ordinated by Ms Molnar/ Mrs Laffoley-Green)
Current Year 4 (Co-ordinated by Mrs Macartney/ Mrs Kelsey)

All other year groups will remain in the same classes.

It is important to highlight that there are many positives for the children in shuffling classes. These advantages include giving them the opportunity to make new friendships and to learn with different children. It also helps prepare pupils for secondary school where this is the norm. Importantly, the teaching and support staff also feel this would be a positive step forward for everyone involved.

We will not start the process until after the May half-term. To ensure the transition is dealt with sensitively, we will ask the children to name five special friends. We will guarantee that at least one of their friends will be in their new class. This will be co-ordinated by the Year Group Leader and one of our Lead Assistant Heads as outlined above. For fairness, we will leave the teachers and SEND team to use their knowledge and expertise to decide the right composition of pupils in the three year groups. For obvious reasons, we will not invite parents to express their preferences.

Once the classes have been decided, we will arrange a number of transition opportunities in the Summer term that will include time with their new teacher.

If you were 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.

We recognise that for some families this change will be welcomed, while others may have concerns. We will ensure that this transition is managed sensitively, so when the children meet their new teacher in July, they will be confident and excited about their new class for September.

Yours faithfully

Kevin Hogston
Head Teacher

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