COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

27th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

End of Term Letter from the Head Teacher – March 2024

As we reach the end of the spring term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the various events and achievements that have taken place at Collis over the past few months. Our spring term began with an inspiring assembly by the RNLI on 12th January, reminding us of the importance of water safety. We also raised over £1,000 for Teddington Lifeboats. Following that, our talented Year 5 and 6 Choir had the incredible opportunity to perform at the O2 as part of Young Voices on 16th January, showcasing their musical talents on a grand stage.

Educational visits also played a significant role in enriching our pupils' learning experiences. Highlights included Year 5's visit to The Globe Theatre on 29th January, providing a glimpse into the world of Shakespearean theatre, and the engaging workshop on the Great Fire of London for Year 2, complete with a visit by a fire engine to the school.

In February, we welcomed parents for a Spelling Workshop and held our CSA AGM with new Chair, Cindy, being elected.

Reading is the engine room of our Collis curriculum. March brought a flurry of activities, including World Book Week from 4th to 8th March, highlighted by a visit from award-winning children's author and Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho, along with a series of enriching workshops, visits to bookshops, library sessions, and experiences such as the VR Journey to Rainforests for Year 5, generously funded by the CSA. We also received a letter from the DfE congratulating the school on our Phonics Results, which were among the top 3% in the country, a testament to the hard work and dedication of our pupils and staff.

Safety remained a top priority, with assemblies on railway safety and a visit from the Canal & River Trust to educate our pupils on water safety. Looking ahead to summer, we have assemblies planned with the Community Police on Stranger Danger and a PSHE workshop on Online Safety and Consent for the older pupils.

This term, we introduced our new mid-term report, which was shared with parents before the parents' evening. This initiative stemmed from the valuable feedback we received from our previous parental survey (please fill in this term's survey, the link is on the newsletter). We have appreciated the positive responses received from parents regarding the report's content and format. A special thank you to our teachers for their commitment and the extra time they invested in assessing and updating these additional reports for parents. Additionally, we were grateful for the high turnout of parents during these spring term parents' evenings.

Sports – Congratulations to teachers Katie Axten and Dominic Laks for successfully leading our PE provision at Collis. This term, we participated in and celebrated the successes of our boys' and girls' football. We introduced more football sessions as part of the OPAL playtime, while also starting a Friday girls-only football day. Additionally, we had swimming and netball team success, showcasing the talent of our pupils.

Beyond academic achievements, our school community has thrived with various activities and events, including class assemblies, Parent Focus Group meetings, birthday celebrations, cake sales for charity, and gardening projects and tree planting led by our magnificent Collis Gardeners headed by Carrie Scott.

Attendance & Punctuality:
We have made significant progress with our attendance figures this year, with our attendance figures reaching record levels. We want to continue this trend into the summer term as we know the direct link between excellent attendance and high academic achievement. Our expectation is that pupils attend school punctually and consistently every day.

It is important that attendance levels remain high at 95% or above. If your child's attendance drops below 90%, this is classified as persistent absence. Collis has a legal duty to contact you and update you, helping to identify ways to address the attendance figure. Please do not be offended when we contact you as we aim to work in partnership and keep you updated on your child's attendance levels.

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 8:50am start time, we open the school gates at 8:40am and close them promptly at 8:50am.

Uniform:
At Collis, we take pride in our school community and maintain high expectations for pupil 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 children wear full Collis School uniform every day. On PE days, pupils can attend school in PE kits.

Regarding jewellery, the only permitted items are a pair of studs. Rings, bracelets, and necklaces should not be worn by pupils. In terms of footwear, pupils are required to wear black leather school shoes; trainers, canvas shoes, or boots are not permitted (except for Early Years).

Staffing News:
As the term ends, we welcome new staff and bid farewell to some members of our staff as they embark on new adventures.

Staff Leavers:
Poppy Saunders - After dedicating over 14 years to Collis, Poppy will be leaving the school at Easter. We wish to express our appreciation and gratitude for her service to Collis. Poppy's commitment and invaluable contributions to our school community have been unfaltering, leaving an enduring impression on all of us, particularly through her work with the younger children in Nursery and Reception.

Sue McDermott - We also extend our thanks to Sue for her work and support in the Collis Nursery and Reception. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Sarah McLaughlin - Will be starting her maternity leave towards the end of April, we look forward to sharing her news at this time. Miss Haley will take on the role of Year One group leader for the summer term.

New Staff to Collis:

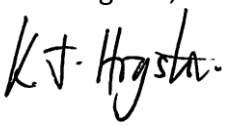
Yasmin Reynell - Will be joining Collis as our new art specialist. Yasmin will be joining us after Easter from Chandlers Field Primary School in West Molesey. Yasmin will join our specialist subject team along with our music specialist, Mrs Barthlomew, to lead our art curriculum at Collis. Alongside this appointment, we are establishing a new art studio located next to our music studio, providing children with dedicated art lessons within our curriculum.

Additionally, Ms Reynell will lead a specialised art club once the art studio is fully set up; this is anticipated towards the end of the summer term. These developments mark an exciting specialist teacher phase for our school with more details to follow soon.

Lucy Bassett - We also welcome Lucy Bassett to our Year 1 Team. Lucy will be taking over Lions Class when Miss McLaughlin goes on maternity leave. Lucy is an experienced KS1 teacher and joins us from Ottershaw Christ Church C of E Infant School.

Finally, as we look forward to the Easter break and the learning opportunities that lie ahead, may I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Collis staff and governing board, to wish all Collis families a restful and rejuvenating holiday. We eagerly anticipate seeing everyone on Monday, 15th April, for another exciting term ahead.

Warm regards,



Kevin Hogston
Head Teacher

SCHOOL GAMES GOLD 2022/23
National Support School designated by National College for Teaching & Leadership
PRIMARY SCIENCE QUALITY MARK SILVER AWARD
WE HAVE ACHIEVED
TRAVEL FOR LIFE GOLD
Ofsted Outstanding School 2014|2015