COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENT FOCUS GROUP
8 June 2023, 2pm – staff room

MINUTES – Meeting with School Governors

PARENT FOCUS GROUP MEMBERS

School

Kevin Hogston (KH)	Headteacher & Host
Rebecca Clake	Minutes

Parents

	Children
Michelle Pinnell	Yr 4 and Yr 2
Karen Cook	Yr 4 and Yr 1
Julia Parker	Yr 3

Governor representatives
Alison Beardon
Michael Bailey
Donna Littman
Jo Kitson
Oliver Tucker

CSA
Jenny Day, Co-Chair

1. Apologies
Noted

Mr Hogston welcomed parents and governors attending to the Parent Focus Group and reminded those at the meeting of the mission and objectives of the group (see school webpage for the Parent Focus Group).

2. Minutes of previous meeting
The minutes from 18th May had been circulated. This meeting was focussed solely on the topic of class mixing and had been extended to the class reps. (See item 5).

3. Matters arising (AOB)
A parent highlighted a concern over safety, with parents parking their cars on the yellow zig zag lines outside the school gates when dropping off/picking up their children at Collis.
Mr Hogston explained Paul Dowsett, who is part of the school's safeguarding team has good links with the local police if we need to flag this as a concern.

Mr Hogston also has an upcoming meeting with the road safety officer. At this meeting, the possibility of having a School Street will be explored. There was a brief discussion regarding the potential benefits, signage/cameras and the implications for residents.
Action Mr Hogston to keep the Parent Focus Group updated.

School clubs
A parent highlighted it would be useful to have some additional notice about September clubs/days of the week. Some children are already being signed up for external clubs with other providers meaning they are then not available to attend a school club.
Action Mr Hogston to feed back and see if an early indication of clubs/likely days can be shared before the summer holidays.

4. What's working well

- Using the field to its maximum potential in terms of activities for the children (as part of the Opal playscheme, funded by the CSA). The field it is now more accessible to the younger children.
- Opportunities for parents to go into class (following on from previous discussion at this group, highlighting the value of doing this after the pandemic). There have been three opportunities to date, this most recent one was focussed on reading. Turnout was high and feedback from the PFG regarding notice for this type of event has been acted upon.
- Children enjoying the swimming pool while it is open during the summer term. (See video in Sway newsletter of pool and also 'wild' meadow area).

5. Mixing classes – brief summary
Mr Hogston explained the previous, well-attended meeting extended to the class reps. had focussed on class re-organisation for 2023/4 and the mixing of current year 2, 3 and 4.

A clear structure for communications to parents and pupils has been set out. A letter has been sent home (Monday 12th June) asking for preferences regarding who children would like to be with in their new class. A week will be given to complete the form at home and it should be returned to school in a sealed envelope.
The dates where children can meet with their new classes and class teachers will be confirmed.
The date children will find out their new class will be provided on the letter (NB timings has been affected by some teachers being on the School Journey).

Points raised included:
It would be useful to get some feedback from teachers regarding whether class mixing had made any different to the current year 6 children in terms of their experience of the School Journey (mid June).
If a longer term policy on class mixing is adopted by the school (eg. mixing at end of year 3/ End of Key Stage 1), it would be good to consider how a new approach would be communicated to parents in plenty of time. This might be at curriculum meetings, at tours for new parents.
Are there other opportunities to promote mixing between classes? – eg. PE. Mr Hogston said that Mr Dawson was looking at these opportunities for year 6 in particular at the moment.

6. Communications/feedback to governors

Under this agenda item there was some discussion at the meeting about the possibility of further industrial action by teachers given the continuing issues regarding financing for schools. It seems most likely this would take place in the Autumn term (but the pay settlement issue is ongoing and details are not yet clear). *(Two dates in July announced since the meeting).*

Mr Hogston said that conscious of the difficulties around childcare for working parents, the school had to date managed to give parents a week's notice of any class closures.

Parents shared experiences of practical issues the strike days posed, including use of CATs.

It was suggested that a Q and A session in the school hall (autumn term) with the head teacher and chair of governors might be a good idea for parents to understand more about the possible further strike action, and also what could/could not be offered by the school on these days given the Union guidelines for teachers. It would be good to think about how this session could be made available to 'harder to reach' parents who would find it hard to attend during the school day.

7. Uniform

On behalf of the CSA, Jenny said that they had plenty of stock and will be looking to put on a sale at all school events (for example the upcoming picnic). It would be good to flag to Year parents that it would be helpful if they could donate uniform when their children leave Collis.

Mr Hogston said he would also look into making available indoor space at school for a sale if needed.

8. PFG plans for 2023/24

Mr Hogston asked parents present if they would like to make any changes to the Parent Focus Group for 2023/24.

It was suggested it might be helpful to start 15 minutes earlier to help ensure the agenda could be more easily covered.

Opal playscheme

Jenny, CSA Co-chair gave an update on the Opal playscheme. The aim is that boys and girls and children of different ages will be able to play better together. Over the Covid period - with 'class bubbles' and restrictions in place - children's play was more confined.

New activities for the children are being positioned in the shade for the children, such as a mud kitchen and a stage. The new sandpit will be up and running soon – there have been difficulties logistically with the sand delivery but it is hoped these have now been resolved.

It was agreed it would be helpful to remind parents about sending a cap/hat into school for their child in this hot weather.

AND FINALLY

KH thanked everyone for their participation.

In September, parents will be invited to apply to join the Parent Focus Group for the academic year 2023/2024.

Please inform Stephanie Knight if you have any agenda items that you would like included next year.