COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENT FOCUS GROUP
Thursday 3rd November 2022

MINUTES

PARENT FOCUS GROUP MEMBERS

School

Kevin Hogston	Headteacher & Chairman
Glynis Manson	Minutes

Parent Members

	Children
Annabelle McCann	5
Matthew Davis	4, 2
Michelle Pinnell	4, 2
Karen Cook	4, 1
Julia Parker	3
Kimberley Garretty	2
Robert Jackson	2, R
Fiona Joseph	1, R
Karen Pollington	R
Katharine Phillips	R
Chirsty MacKenzie	N
Tulika Joshi	N

Governor Representative Donna Littman

CSA Representative Nicola Hanley

Apologies
None received.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kevin Hogston (KH) welcomed the members of the new Parent Focus Group for 2022/23 and thanked everyone for their interest and participation. The members have been chosen to represent different year groups across the school. Representatives from the CSA and the Governing Body have also been invited to join each meeting.

OUTLINE & OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP

1. The Mission of the Parent Focus Group is:

To act as a focused sounding board for future ideas and events and to give constructive feedback.

2. The Objectives are:

a) To work in a positive partnership with the school.
b) To increase parental involvement and be another 'voice' of parents
c) To improve the learning experience of our children in school.
d) To help communicate issues to parents.

3. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting will be available on the website for all parents to access. The main agenda items for the next meeting will be decided at the end of the meeting to enable time for preparation and information gathering. Members are asked to read the Minutes of previous meetings to familiarise themselves with topics already discussed.

Please note: Parents can pass suggestions to members of the group, but the school would always encourage parents to speak to school directly if they have a particular issues.

WHAT'S WORKING WELL

1. New infant playground – This was funded by the CSA. When the Colliseum building was built there was no provision in place by the builders for the outside environment. CSA fundraising enabled the area to be equipped for Early Years and Key Stage 1. A pirate ship and benches are on order and due for delivery in early 2023.

2. Parents' evening – Parents were impressed by the way that new teachers had hit the ground running and had a good understanding of children and the class dynamics. KH explained that by being careful with our revenue spending and the funds brought in by CATS and clubs during the year we had been able to recruit experienced teachers. Across the Richmond upon Thames borough there had been huge shifts in people leaving the profession, either retiring or relocating, also moving from the state to the private sector.

3. Curriculum Meetings, Reading/Maths Workshops – This was seen as a good way to get to know the teachers and what the children are learning. They were engaging and gave ideas on how to support the children at home. Children are taught differently to how parents learned. Parents felt empowered to support their children. Parents were enthusiastic about the opportunity to visit the classroom after the Curriculum Meetings.

KH confirmed that we would trial recording these sessions in future. We are also looking into the opportunity to enable more parent interaction in class. The model for this year is to hold the Curriculum meetings, followed by the first parents' evenings online. The Spring term parents' evenings will be in person. It is possible to meet the teacher outside of parents' evenings by contacting the school office. Slides to the Curriculum Meetings and workshops are on the school website along with knowledge maps and learning strategies.

SCHOOL FUNDING/CSA

School funding is tricky to navigate and unfortunately over recent years it has been necessary to ask parents for more money. By maximising donations this allows us to do lots of extra things. Last year the CSA raised £63k and committed £80k to the school. Funds are used to enhance the learning of the children. Funds have been spent on swimming pool, the playground, new junior library system and an interactive day for all presented by the Science Museum. Bank accounts are now exhausted. 280 new books were purchased via the Amazon Wish List to support the recent mufti day.

No target for fundraising has been set this year. The CSA are looking to get more people involved with things that are easy to organise and in bite-sized chunks. There is a need for wider school support. The fireworks event is the biggest fundraiser and they had to resort to begging for volunteers to fill slots. This was disappointing as everyone gets to benefit. CSA meetings are held each term at various times and at different venues to be inclusive. The next meeting will be held in the Colliseum Hall at 9.00am on Friday 25th November with discussion regarding Forest School. We currently have a gardening group who are reorganising the Nature Trail and it is hoped to run two Forest School clubs from January. This year's fundraising by the CSA will be used to fund the updating of the school ICT Suite and more interactive days on different topics across the school. The 'new' CSA Newsletter communicates successes, gives details of the funds each event has raised and raises awareness of what fundraising is spent on.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Communication
School lunches
School uniform
Access opportunities

MEETING DATES 2022-23

Thursday 5th January, 2.00pm
Thursday 23rd February, 2.00pm
Thursday 20th April, 2.00pm
Thursday 8th June, 2.00pm