COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENT FOCUS GROUP
24 February 2022

MINUTES

PARENT FOCUS GROUP MEMBERS

School

Kevin Hogston	Headteacher & Chairman
Jayne King	Minutes

Parent Members

	Children
Julie Syers	6,3,&1
Ayse Celik	5 & 2
Ann Curtis	5 x twins
John Dutton	4
Katie Hibbard	3 & 1
Hayley Wilkes	2
Julia Parker	2
Ana Zabala-Wynne	1
Michael Darowski	1
Shilpa Shenoy	1 & N
Tri Bannister	R
Sharon Fergus	R

Governor
Helen Samuel

CSA
Jenny Day, Co-Chair

Apologies
Ana Zabala-Wynne

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kevin Hogston (KH) welcomed the new members to the Parent Focus Group 2022 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. The Group does not decide policy, but can influence decisions.

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 - especially after Covid

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.

CSA

Jenny Day was pleased to report that the CSA has new committee members and a full year of events planned for both the children and parents. More members are welcome, particularly from KS1 - and more dads. The AGM is on Friday, 4th March at 9.00 am, in Colliseum Hall, and as many parents as possible are encouraged to attend, including class reps. The CSA will be focusing its fund raising to support specific projects at school, this has proved to be more successful. They will be looking to improve their communications, with less reliance on Whatsapp groups.

KH stressed how important the money raised by the CSA has always been to the school. Over the past two years it has been critical to compensate for the loss of income from CATS, lettings and clubs. CSA money enabled us to kit out the Colliseum building. There was no allocation for this in the overall build costs, but with the help of the CSA we have been able to purchase a lot of new equipment and create fabulous outdoor areas for the Reception and Nursery classes.

WHAT'S WORKING WELL

1. Lunches - tablecloths, bread on the table, and no more flight trays! - the children seem to be really enjoying the new dining experience offered by our new catering company, Pabulum, who took over the contract in January. Pabulum will be inviting parents to taster sessions and an opportunity to view the kitchen during parents evening on 29th and 30th March. KH confirmed that the catering staff are fully aware of the children who suffer from any food allergies. These children wear a lanyard so that they are easily identified at service.

2. Covid - Parents praised the measures that have been put in place for home learning while children are isolating. KH highlighted the improvement in home learning since the first lockdown in Jan 2020. The previous half-term was particularly difficult at school with as many as 11 x staff isolating at one time. KH again mentioned the enormous contribution made by all our staff to ensure that the school was able to remain open. That said, half term came just in time, since when staffing and the children's attendance have returned to normal, with only 2 x children isolating this week. We continue to encourage any children who test positive to isolate for 5 x days and we will provide home learning until 1 April, in line with government guidance.

   Throughout the pandemic we have tried to keep school life as normal as possible, this was appreciated and commended by the group. Some things have been more challenging than others, but some positives have come from this, one example being the Year 6 leavers' assembly that was held outside on the Muga. Such was its success, we have now ordered a PA system for similar events.

   Our virtual parent meetings worked very well and were more convenient for some families. Going forward we may offer a choice of on-line or face-to-face meetings. KH reminded parents that appointments can be made with class teachers at any time to discuss any aspects of their child's learning.

NEW BUILDING

We are delighted that the Colliseum is complete and the Harlequin building has been spruced up with a new coat of paint on the corridors and staircases. The new building and the outdoor spaces work very well. We are looking forward to our official opening ceremony in March that will be attended by councillors and governors.

Parents were keen to have more opportunities to see the building - this will be arranged.

AOB

1. Clubs Parents asked if the range of afterschool clubs would be increased, particularly reintroducing more external providers. KH explained that the focus was now on increasing the capacity of CATS and expanding the range of activities that it offered. More staff have been recruited and CATS is using more of the school's facilities, which limits the opportunities for other providers.

   CATS & Clubs will be discussed at the next meeting with Paul Dowsett, the Manager at CATS present.

2. Covid Catch Up KH explained that while most children had worked very well during the home learning programme, some had naturally fallen behind. We are targeting those children and have recruited additional teachers to provide extra lessons with funds provided by the Government's Catch-Up Programme. Full details can be found on our website, at: https://www.collis.richmond.sch.uk/catch-up-premium/

3. Lunches - discussion about the vegetarian option.

4. We are pleased to report that the relocation of the Infant library is nearly finished and it will reopen in the Summer term.

5. A plea was made to scoop up any abandoned uniform at the end of the day and to reintroduce lost-property bins outside each year group.

6. Parents asked about donating books to school. Many parents have purchased books, particularly reading books, to help their child's home learning, that are no longer needed. KH confirmed that we are always grateful for good quality book donations.

7. Parents raised the questions of mixing classes to enable the children to broaden their friendship groups and to prepare them better for secondary transition. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

CATS & Clubs
Parent communication
Mixing Classes
Ofsted

MEETING DATES 2022

Thursday 21 April, 2.00 pm
Thursday 9 June, 2.00 pm