COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENT FOCUS GROUP
6 March 2020

MINUTES

PARENT FOCUS GROUP MEMBERS

School

Kevin Hogston	Head Teacher & Chairman
Sophie Macartney	Assistant Head Teacher
Carrie Stanton	Assistant Head Teacher

Parent Members

	Children
Nicola Hanley	Nursery, 1
Carrie Scott	Rec
Rik King	1
Graham Ball	2
Sharon Evans	3 Twins
Nichola Plower	3
Ann Curtis	3 Twins
Emily Button	4, 2, 1
Selin Ozcagli	4
Sandra Horsfield	5, 3
Alison Driver	5, 4
Philip Motha	5 Twins
Alys Plowman	5
Shaun Alpine Crabtree	6, 4

Governors
Julia Combe

Apologies
Carrie Scott, Ann Curtis, Nichola Plower

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no comments on the previous minutes.

MATTERS ARISING (AOB)

1. Brief discussion on playground and lunches.

2. The possibility of installing a pedestrian crossing on Kingston Lane was discussed. KH will raise this with Councillor Brown.

WHAT'S WORKING WELL

We had a very successful World Book Day yesterday with so many children dressing up as characters from their favourite books. This year the teachers and children worked together to produce an Amazon Wish List of all the titles the children want or need at school, both for the libraries and their classrooms. This is proving very popular as we have already received many generous donations from parents.

NEW BUILDING

KH presented an overview of progress so far. We are regularly updating the website and will shortly include a page of Q&As.

The site is now fully fenced off. The playground area is reduced, but as the weather improves the infant children will make more use of the field. The table tennis tables have been relocated and the sleeper beds removed to create more playground space. The children are learning more traditional playground games, ideal for the reduced space. Staff are vigilant during playtimes to ensure all the different areas of the playground are properly supervised and remain safe. Ultimately, the children will have far more playground space as the new building is a two storey building and has a far smaller footprint.

Because of the reduced space in the playground, we have changed some drop-off and pick-up locations. Footpaths to the front of the school have been widened to improve access and alleviate congestion. These new arrangements appear to be working well.

We have negotiated ten quiet days, when there will be no noisy building work, to be used primarily during SATs week.

Timeline - The new building will be ready for occupation in September. The existing infant building will be demolished during the Summer holiday. The office will be temporarily relocated to the PPA room in the Junior school while the new Admin block is constructed, it is due for completion by October half term. Work will then begin on the MUGA pitches and surrounding playground. Completion of the whole project is December/January 2021.

We will hold a competition to name the new building.

CORONAVIRUS

The school is following guidance from Public Health England and updating parents as necessary.

Parents have contacted us if they have been in, or close to, the infected areas. They have taken advice from NHS 111. NHS will inform the school is there is a confirmed case. We will then take advice from Public Health England.

Children are regularly washing their hands throughout the day. Door handles, knobs and switches are being cleaned daily.

CHARITIES

In recent years the Poppy Appeal has expanded from asking for a donation for a poppy to selling a wide range of novelty items that prove very popular with the children. A parent raised concern that the children are far more interested in acquiring as many of these items as possible than giving to the charity. The message of the charity is being lost.

CS suggested an assembly about the meaning of making a donation and inviting a representative from the Poppy Appeal to explain more about their charity. We will only sell poppies in future.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Environmental awareness and sustainability in school is a big subject, some areas were discussed in the meeting.

Parents are concerned about the amount of plastic 'bits and bobs' that are given to the children as birthday treats, now that birthday sweets have been stopped. It was suggested that an ideal gift would be a book donated to the class, perhaps with a book plate, signed with the child's name. It was further suggested that Amazon Gift Lists, that have proved so successful for World Book Day, could be expanded to include birthday book lists for each class. The idea was well received and could be introduced at the start of the new school year in September.

Discussion moved on to:

1. Recycling of food, plastic and cardboard - these are already in place in school.
2. Ensuring we no longer ask that packed lunches for school trips are provided in disposable wrappers/containers. This will apply to all year groups.
3. Finding a way to replace the individual milk cartons provided for Nursery children.
4. Recycling dressing up clothes to other families.

Science Week at Collis will focus on plastics and protecting the planet.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

1. New building
2. Lunches
3. Clubs
4. Sex education

Meeting Dates 2019/20

Friday 15th May - 2.00pm
Friday 19th June - 2.00pm