COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENT FOCUS GROUP
17 January 2020

MINUTES

PARENT FOCUS GROUP MEMBERS

School

Kevin Hogston	Headteacher & Chairman
Sophie Macartney	Assistant Headteacher

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
Selin Ozcagli

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

KH talked through the main points in the Minutes.

MATTERS ARISING (AOB)

1. It was agreed that school lunches will be discussed at the next meeting.

2. A request was made for clarification about the school's policy on sweets.
Giving birthday sweets to the class is no longer allowed. It was felt the children were receiving far too many sweets and parents have little or no control over this. Likewise teachers will no longer give sweets to their children as rewards for good work or end of term treats.

3. There was a brief discussion about the use of plastics in school and recycling of paper, plastic and food. Environmental awareness and sustainability will be an agenda item at a forthcoming meeting and will be discussed fully then.

4. A request was made for sight of the school's anti-bullying policy. Please see the link below. Please note all school policies are on our website.
https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/collis-primary-school/UploadedDocument/2f439da704db4ab883f94b25b65ec05d/anti-bullying-policy-october-18.pdf

WHAT'S WORKING WELL

1. Parent praised the support given to his Year 4 child who has struggled with maths. KH again explained how we no longer stream the children for maths (except year 6). This has had a very positive effect on the learning of children who lack confidence in the subject. More details: https://www.collis.richmond.sch.uk/mathematics-curriculum/

2. Recent changes to OFSTED inspections have put more focus on the curriculum and in particular reading. Reading information was sent to parents in Years 1-3 detailing the new system of colour bands that are part of a national scheme for reading that ensures the different reading schemes grade at a similar level. More guidance notes about reading with your child at home will be distributed shortly.

3. Our new improved CATS under the management of Paul Dowsett has received many positive comments. Parents asked for clarification about the rules for booking ad hoc sessions. To do this, the child must already be registered with CATS and using the club for at least one session per week on a regular basis. Thereafter, ad hoc places will be dependent on availability.

4. Reception children are looking forward to visiting Teddington Library next week.

JUNIOR TIMETABLE

KH outlined the changes that have been made to the Junior timetable since September. The timetable has been changed to accommodate three lessons during the morning when children are most receptive to learning. Maths and English are taught each morning and the third lesson is for something different, such as PE or ICT. Within each year group the subjects may not be timetabled at the same time for each class, but the amount of time spent on each subject will be identical.

Junior lunch hour has been pushed back to 12.30 to enable us to timetable the three lessons. It also allows a staggered playtime that benefits the younger children and relieves pressure in the dining halls during service.

Concern was expressed that the new timetable did not allow enough time for the children to eat their lunch and get to a club on time. Children in Years 4-6 who have a club should go straight to lunch at 12.30 with the Year 3 children.

E-SAFETY/CYBER BULLYING

Peter Cowley, ICT & Online Safety Adviser at the Borough, visited Collis earlier this month to give his annual presentation to parents about internet safety. He followed this with workshops for all our children in Reception - Year 6.

His presentation included information on:

- how to set up parental restrictions
- age ratings and what is appropriate
- websites that give information about different apps and their suitability for children
- filtering services that notify parents of any inappropriate content their children are seeing.

Here is the link to Peter's presentation: bit.ly/primaryparents

Please also see the detailed information on the E-Safety page on our website that includes fact sheets for parents on:

- grooming
- using parental controls
- worries that your child has shared too much online
- worries that your child will see something inappropriate on line.

KH emphasised that in school the teachers regularly talk to the children about internet safety, but this has to be a partnership with parents. Only 27 parents out of a school of nearly 800 children attended the presentation and he asked how we can get more parents to attend.

Smart phones - SM confirmed that children are not allowed to use their phones in school time. The phones are locked away at registration and returned to them at the end of the day.

Online safety will be briefly discussed further at the next meeting.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

1. E-Safety (continued)
2. Lunches
3. Supporting charities and monitoring how the children donate their money.
4. Environmental awareness and sustainability
5. Clubs
6. Sex education

Meeting Dates 2019/20

Friday 6th March - 2.00pm
Friday 15th May - 2.00pm
Friday 19th June - 2.00pm