COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENT FOCUS GROUP
8 March 2019

MINUTES

PARENT FOCUS GROUP MEMBERS

School

Kevin Hogston	Headteacher & Chairman
Sophie Macartney	Assistant Headteacher

Parent Members

	Year Grp	Children
Sarah Veichmanis	Nursery	3, 1, Nurs
David Tyas	Nursery	3, Nurs
Gaya Nolan	Reception	Rec
Jared Griffiths	Reception	Rec
Lee Addis	Reception	Rec
Dmitry Rudenko	Year 1	1
Graham Ball	Year 1	1
Erin Bibby	Year 1	1
Claire Price	Year 2	4, 2
Kate Perham	Year 3	6, 3
Gili Orbach	Year 3	6, 3
Jo Humphreys	Year 4	6, 4
Gavin Clarke	Year 4	4
Jo Gerloch	Year 5	5, 2
Sarah Robinson	Year 6	6
Lorraine King	Year 6	6
Natalie O'Rourke	SEN	3, 1

Governors
Julia Combe

Apologies
Denece Hart, Jared Griffiths, David Tyas

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

KH talked through the Minutes.

A letter was sent to all parents covering the main topics discussed at the last meeting. Since then, we have new 'do not park here' banners at the entrance on Fairfax Road. Parking wardens and police officers are now patrolling the area.

MATTERS ARISING (AOB)

1. Notice of forthcoming activities
   The school will ensure at least one week's notice of forthcoming activities is given to parents, allowing time to respond/prepare.

2. Education City
   Sophie will reissue guidance on how to access the homework site.

3. Sugar in School
   Concerns were raised about cake sales and birthday sweets.
   KH explained that cake sales are an important fundraiser for the school and for the charities chosen by the children. Parents are able to decide if their child can buy a cake, or not. Of more concern are birthday sweets. While the school has requested that parents find a healthier alternative to giving sweets to the class to celebrate a birthday, it is felt that the children are still receiving far too many sweets and parents have little or no control over this. It was decided that from September giving birthday sweets to the class will no longer be allowed.

WHAT'S WORKING WELL

1. Head Teacher's Q&A session was well received, giving clarity and detail to the school's key priorities and thinking. It also gave parents an opportunity to ask questions. Slides of the presentation have been circulated.
2. Collis Rocks This is a new event organised by the CSA and it was a huge success, thoroughly enjoyed by parents, and a successful fundraiser for the school.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER

Parents asked for more information to help negotiate the secondary school application process. The Borough's brochure, 'Admission to Richmond's Secondary Schools', is now distributed in PDF form and is available from the beginning of September. It contains detailed information about the application process and lists all the Borough's secondary schools with details of their open days and tours. From September, we will distribute this to Year 5 families as well to allow more time for parents to do their research and attend school visits. More information will be shared at the Year 5 & 6 curriculum meetings at the start of the year.

When considering applications to independent and grammar schools, parents would appreciate more guidance from class teachers to determine the 'appropriate' schools to apply to, prior to starting the entrance exam process.

YEAR 6 CURRICULUM AFTER SATS

It was suggested that after SATs, when there is less pressure on the curriculum, Year 6 teachers could invite parents to speak to the children about their jobs. KH pointed out that the Year 6 assembly on Thursdays would be an ideal time and any parents interested should contact him directly.

LINKS WITH THE OUTSIDE COMMUNITY

We are happy to promote events in our local community that may be of interest to Collis families. Please do let the school know.

CATS

KH reported that since we increased the numbers at CATS last year the club is running close to capacity, with small or no waiting lists. There is a possibility that we could offer some ad hoc sessions, though the children would have to be registered with CATS. There was a discussion about what is provided at CATS.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

1. Sports Day
2. Cloakrooms
3. More support for the CSA
4. Ofsted and parental involvement
5. A forum for Year 6 parents to pass on their knowledge and experience.

MEETING DATES 2018/19

Friday 17th May 2019 – 1.45pm
Friday 21st June 2019 – 1.45pm