COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENT FOCUS GROUP
30 November 2018

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

CSA
Louise Farrell

Apologies
Jared Griffiths, Lee Addis, Dmitry Rudenko, Sarah Robinson, Lorraine King, Denece Hart

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

KH talked through the Minutes. There were no comments.

WHAT'S WORKING WELL

1. The children in Reception are loving their Jolly Phonics lessons. Children are assessed in Year 1 (June)
2. The CSA coffee morning in November was well attended and has hopefully encouraged more parents to get involved.
3. Times Tables Rock Stars is an online homework site for children in Year 4. Suddenly learning times tables is fun! Government statutory testing of times tables is being introduced in June 2019 for Year 4 pupils.

TEACHING IN SETS

Members asked if the school has changed its policy about streaming subjects.

Over the last few years at Collis we have taught all subjects in mixed ability classes with the exception of junior mathematics. KH explained that in Year 3 last year, 2017/18, we trialled teaching maths in mixed ability classes.

The trial was very successful and this year it has been extended to Year 4. The children in Years 5 & 6 will continue in sets for the remainder of the academic year. The SLT is currently looking at what is best for the children in Years 5 & 6 and will update parents in the summer term 2019.

KH talked through the latest research that overwhelmingly shows that streaming has a negative effect for children of all abilities and all children including the most able are more successful when taught in a mixed ability class. Most primaries and some secondaries (Waldegrave) in the Borough no longer teach in sets.

KH will write to parents to explain the changes with links to the latest research. The enclosed links are a starting point for parents who are interested in the research.

https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/setting-or-streaming

http://maximisingtas.co.uk/assets/content/mixedattainment.pdf

http://www.collis.richmond.sch.uk/mathematics-curriculum/

CSA/FUND RAISING

The Collis School Association (CSA) is an integral part of the Collis School community. It has been a tremendous source of help and support to the school over the years, both in terms

of fundraising and social activities. The money raised by the CSA is an essential resource that enables the school to fund projects that make Collis such a special place.

The school is extremely grateful to all our parents who find time to help, but the reality is that the CSA is run by a handful of parents who do a huge amount of work. It really needs more volunteers to spread the load. The events that raise so much money for the school are large and ambitious and require a lot of helpers to run them and, as a consequence, some events are increasingly at threat because of the shortage of volunteers.

Ways to get more parents involved were discussed.

The recent coffee morning was well attended and several new parents have joined the committee. More coffee mornings will be organised with members of the senior leadership team present.

It was suggested that each year group should be allocated one event per year to organise, and that would be the same event each year. Arrangements that have been well tried and tested would be handed down and preparations could start well in advance. Class reps would play a key part in organising volunteers to help with their year group.

Cathy Colnaghi, our new finance officer, will work closely with the CSA and will liaise between the CSA and school.

KH will continue to promote the CSA in the school newsletter and highlight how the money is being spent.

AOB

1. Birthday Sweets – Reducing Sugar
   When the Parent Focus Group first met three years ago, one of the discussions was how we can reduce sugar in our children's diets and what role, if any, the school can play in this. The topic was raised again at this meeting. The school will add the following information to the newsletter encouraging parents to find alternatives to sugary treats.

   The health and tooth decay concerns of too much sugar in children's diets have been widely documented and the Parent Focus Group wanted to raise awareness that birthday sweets (sweets given out to the class on a child's birthday) are an additional and maybe unnecessary tradition in our 'sugar rich' world.

   However, the school and staff feel that simply banning birthday sweets will divide opinion and a better option would be to ask parents to think about the issue and encourage different ways of celebrating birthdays in school. The infants already hold birthday assemblies which are an excellent way of celebrating birthdays. Possible suggestions to be considered as alternatives to sweets could be buying a class or library book or if parents wanted to purchase a small gift then pencils, pens, rubbers, pencil sharpeners or stickers could be other options.

2. The mound is currently out of action. We are awaiting materials to carry out the repairs.

3. Better parking for scooters and bikes on site - money has been included for this in the budget for the new building, but until the plans are finalised we will not know the best location.

4. New Build – the school is still in discussions with the DfE.

VISIT TO THE WELL-BEING ROOM

The group visited our new Well-being room. The room is now complete and KH talked about how it is being used. An official opening is planned for Tuesday 4 December. The event will be recorded and available to see on our website.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

1. Secondary School Transfer
2. School uniform from School Trends
3. Cloakroom management
4. Year 6 curriculum after SATs
5. CATS/Clubs
6. Sports Day
7. Attendance (holidays during term time)
8. Links with outside community

MEETING DATES 2018/19

Friday 18th January 2019 - 2.00pm
Friday 8th March 2019 - 2.00pm
Friday 17th May 2019 - 2.00pm
Friday 21st June 2019 - 2.00pm