**COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL**
**PARENT FOCUS GROUP**
**18 May 2018**

**MINUTES**

## PARENT FOCUS GROUP MEMBERS

**School**

| | |
|---|---|
| Kevin Hogston | Headteacher & Chairman |
| Sophie Macartney | Assistant Headteacher |
| Carrie Stanton | Assistant Head of Middle School |

**Parent Members**

| | Year Grp | Children | Representation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Clare Clements | Nursery | Nurs & Yr 2 | Working mum |
| Joanna Hutton | Reception | Rec | Working mum |
| Amy Vogel | Reception | Rec | |
| Brook Miller | Reception | Rec | Dad |
| Kate Newdigate | Year 1 | Yr 1 | Working mum |
| Jehan Yehia | Year 1 | Twins Yr 1 | Working mum |
| Laura & Tim Vamplew | Year 1 | Yr 1 | Working parents |
| Alexey Akhunov | Year 1 | Twins Yr 1 | Dad |
| Jyotsna Gala | Year 1 | Twins Yr 1 | Working mum |
| Mindy Sawhney | Year 2 | Yr 2 | Working mum |
| Sarah Ioannou | Year 2 | Yrs 1 & 2 | |
| Nicola Lawrie | Year 3 | Yrs Nurs, 3 & 5 | |
| Matthew Ramsey | Year 4 | Yrs 2, 4 | Dad |
| Sophie Harrison | Year 5 | Yrs 2 & 5 | SEN |
| Julia Combe | Year 6 | Yrs 6 & 3 | Governor |

**Apologies**
Brook Miller, Mindy Sawney, Nicola Lawrie

**CSA**
Louise Farrell, Treasurer

## MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

1. Sport in School – KH highlighted the success of our two girls' football teams. Yrs5&6 are now Borough League Champions and Yrs3&4 have won the Premier League Primary Stars Cup. Their success has sparked a surge of interest with 70 girls now attending football training!

2. 2018/19 Budget – KH confirmed that the school budget has been finalised, although the financial climate is still challenging for schools Collis has balanced its budget for the year ahead.

**WHAT'S WORKING WELL**

1. Science Week – was a huge success with the children enjoying the experiments and activities.

2. Homework Club – the club is for Yrs 5&6 and aims to make the children take greater responsibility for doing their homework. It is good preparation for coping with the much larger volumes of homework at secondary school. Similarly, help with homework is offered at CATS.

3. KS2 SATs – the breakfasts were praised as a great way to get the children in early and in the right frame of mind for the exams each day. The children had an excellent attitude and were relaxed and focused for the tests.

**COMMUNICATION (Parent Meetings)**

KH listed the main communication with parents throughout the school year, starting with:

Class Curriculum meetings in September
Parent/teacher meetings in the Autumn and Spring terms
School report in the Summer term
Meetings for parents to explain new curriculum information, for example, the English Workshop in March
Weekly newsletters
Very comprehensive website
Opportunity to meet with class teachers after school, as required.

Parents are again reminded to look at the Year Pages on our website for curriculum information and details of what the children are doing each week.

Transition to the next year group - this year the children will visit their new class and meet their teacher on 2nd July. Parents will be informed later in the day. A general discussion about transition for different groups of children took place.

A request was made to make reading the newsletter easier on an iphone. School to discuss with Click On IT.

**WELLBEING ROOM**

Collis is creating a classroom to be used solely for the emotional and mental wellbeing of the children. The room will accommodate a maximum of 30 children where teachers will be able to hold PSHE lessons and activities such as Circle Time, to discuss a wide range of topics. Equally it will be a space for small group work or 1:1, as required. We are recruiting a school counsellor/well-being teacher to work with the PSHE team. Mental health issues amongst teenagers is a growing problem and we aim to ameliorate the low level anxieties that children suffer at primary school before they become much more deep-seated at secondary.

The room will be specially designed for this purpose and it is hoped it will be ready by October this year. The CSA has agreed to half of the funding and we are preparing proposals to apply for grants from different organisations such as mental health charities and the Lottery Fund. Parents will be asked to help via Bounce-a-thon type fund raising.

**FUNDRAISING – Swimming Pool**

Our swimming pool is now opening from April to October and while this is hugely beneficial to the children, we are inevitably incurring additional costs for instruction and maintenance.

The pool is now over 30 years old and in need of constant repair. The time has come to look at replacing the pool so that it will continue to be a wonderful resource for the children and potentially a very good source of income for use after school and during the holidays.

We are currently tendering for quotations, we will then, with the CSA, start a programme of fund raising. This will involve a yearly donation from parents to pay for the swimming lessons and start the 'savings bank' for the replacement pool.

**AOB**

1. The group suggested appealing to parents through the newsletter to promote their jobs/skills that may be of help to the school. These could be practical skills, carpentry/electrics, etc, or to talk to a group of children about their work, or to provide expertise connected to a particular school project.

2. We are doubling the capacity of CATS before and after school care from September. Details were announced in last week's newsletter. It is hoped we will make the club more accessible to a larger number of families.

3. A question was raised about the achievement of boys. SM assured the group that this is monitored very closely and we will circulate figures.

**TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING**

1. The composition of the PFG
2. Fundraising
3. Clubs
4. Music in school

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Friday 29th June 2018 - 2.00pm – all Governors will attend as observers