COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENT FOCUS GROUP
16 March 2018

MINUTES

PARENT FOCUS GROUP MEMBERS

School

Kevin Hogston	Headteacher & Chairman
Sophie Macartney	Assistant Headteacher
Denece Hart	Governor

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
Judi Ashley	Year 5	Yr 5	SEN
Sophie Harrison	Year 5	Yrs 2 & 5	SEN
Julia Combe	Year 6	Yrs 6 & 3	Governor

Apologies
Joanna Hutton, Matthew Ramsey, Jyotsna Gala, Judi Ashley, Sophie Harrison, Julia Combe, Kate Newdigate

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

School Ethos - KH thanked members for their input to define the school vision and values. KH is holding meetings with staff and governors and will update the group shortly.

WHAT'S WORKING WELL

1. Forest School - The nursery children are loving Forest School.

2. English Workshops were held on 14 March to give parents a better understanding of the new curriculum. The workshops were praised for being informative and helpful. Two timeslots were offered on the same day and the sessions were very well attended. More consideration will be given to the scheduling of similar meetings in future, perhaps with the two meetings taking place on separate days. A copy of the presentation is posted on our website for those who were unable to attend.

3. Snow - despite the very harsh weather earlier in the month, it was business as usual at Collis. Parents thanked the school for staying open during the challenging conditions.

STAFF TRAINING - NATIONAL SUPPORT SCHOOL

Collis is a National Support School and as such we receive funding from the Government enabling us to put together a programme of training sessions throughout the year. We invite other local schools to join us and this provides income for Collis.

We have been very fortunate to have secured some of the very best speakers in the field of Education. Our website gives details of their inspirational training sessions. KH talked through their different programmes and explained how new ideas and theories are used in the classroom. This training ensures our teaching and learning is outstanding.

KH highlighted an up-coming session with Dean Beadle on Autism. This will be a ticketed event to which parents will be invited.

National Support School:
http://www.collis.richmond.sch.uk/national-support-school/
CPD at Collis:
http://www.collis.richmond.sch.uk/new-thinking-training/

ONE-OFF ANNUAL PAYMENT FOR TRIPS

The pros and cons of asking for a one-off annual contribution towards class visits and activities were discussed. It is recognise that the school does ask for a lot of small contributions to run different activities in the classroom as well as larger contributions to pay for external visits. However, to ask for one annual payment does pose problems and these were discussed by the group.

A vote was held 6:4 in favour of maintaining a ‘pay as you go’ system.

KH will discuss with Governors

SPORT IN SCHOOL

Sport in school was discussed. The group discussed the possibility of setting up stronger links with external sports clubs and the wider community and, using the sports fund, to bring professional coaches into school to work with the children.

SM pointed out that we already have established links with rugby, cricket, tennis and basketball clubs who work with our junior children. It was recognised that there are fewer opportunities for infant children, but as KH explained, the school has to deliver the Infant PE curriculum which is about ball skills and developing an interest in sport. Playing team sports does not start until the juniors. We welcome external clubs contacting school. KH to discuss with James Loizos, PE Coordinator.

AOB

Healthy Eating – Collis has been promoting healthy eating for many years now. Discussion was held on the involvement of schools regarding healthy eating and how much information should be given to parents.

2018/19 Budget – KH will write to parents after Easter with an update on next year's budget. KH reassured the group that Collis is in a stable position, with the CSA and Parent Fund playing an important role in helping us balance the budget.

TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Communication – (parent meetings)
2. Fund raising ideas
3. Clubs

MEETING DATES 2018

Friday 18th May 2018 - 2.00pm
Friday 29th June 2018 - 2.00pm – all Governors will attend as observers