COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENT FOCUS GROUP
30 June 2017

MINUTES

PARENT FOCUS GROUP MEMBERS

School:

Kevin Hogston	Headteacher & Chairman
Jane Way	Deputy Headteacher
Coryn Bendelow	EYFS Coordinator

Parent members:

	Year Grp	Children	Representation
Sally Owen	Reception	Rec, Yr2	
Alison Driver	Year 1	Yrs 1, 2	
Sandra Horsfield	Year 2	Rec, Yr2	Working mum
John Kirwan	Year 2	Rec, Yr2	Working dad
Jennie Alexandre	Year 3	Yr3	
Helen Samuel	Year 3	Yrs 1, 3	Working mum
David Tregear	Year 4	Yr 4	Working dad
Salwa Wardeh	Year 5	Yr 5	
Jane Bates	Year 6	Yrs 1, 4, 6	

Governors:
Julia Combe
Denece Hart

CSA:
Amanda Beningfield
Frances Wells

Apologies:
Denece Hart, Helen Samuel, Jennie Alexandre, Amanda Copeland, Jane Way

'WHAT IS WORKING WELL'

1. **Collis School Fair** Thanks to all members of the CSA for their very hard work putting together a hugely successful fair that raised £8,000 for the school.

2. **Swimming Lessons** in the school pool were introduced during the half-term holiday. We intend to continue using the pool during the first half of the Autumn term. We will also be introducing a 'splash & play' after school club and swimming lessons for non-swimmers. The pool will be used by the summer camp throughout the summer holiday.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mixing Up Classes
It is not our policy to mix year groups unless there are specific problems to resolve, however, it was thought that there could be some benefit from mixing the Year 6 classes for selected lessons/activities to provide some preparation for the big change of moving to secondary school and the anxiety that creates.

FUND RAISING

KH reported that he had written to all parents explaining the school's financial situation. He explained how important parent donations are and how they will become even more so in coming years. The income received from our expanded Clubs programme is also invaluable.

Sir Vince Cable visited Collis last week, he is leading a parliamentary debate on school funding and we were able to express our concerns directly to him. The link from the Commons debate will be circulated in the newsletter.

The group discussed how more parents could be encouraged to donate. The school is aiming for a 60-70% take up and this amount is being included in our budget to pay for vital resources.

Other local primary and secondary schools are asking for much larger donations, for example, one is asking for £260/child. It was thought that because our donation is much smaller, perhaps parents believe our financial situation is not as serious. It is important to get the message across, but we do not want to badger parents as the school is not comfortable asking for the donations, although the current financial situation leaves us with little choice. A total will be included in the newsletter each half term with the link to My BT Donate.

The CSA will shortly give a round-up of all their fundraising for this year and how the money is being spent. Frances commented that much more CSA money is being spent on school essentials, not the more normal CSA expenditure. Again, the point was made that a huge amount of work is done by very few people to make the CSA such a success. It is vital to encourage new people to join the committee, to get involved at any level, in order to spread the workload and to continue what is now a vital part of our income.

ROLE MODELS – (Breaking down stereotypes)

Discussion included how to break down the traditional stereotypes of girls and boys.

KH mentioned some notable speakers who have recently taken assemblies:

- Perdi Williams from NPL, spoke to the children about 'What is a Scientist', focussing on misconceptions about gender stereotypes.
- Sarah Ioannou from the Houses of Parliament spoke about democracy, political parties, voting.
- Various school assemblies that focus on famous role models, most recently on Emmeline Pankhurst and women's suffrage, led by the head teacher.

KH spoke about inspirational speakers such as Guy Claxton and Will Ord who have led staff training sessions focussing on children breaking out of the mould, not having any limits, not being frightened of making mistakes, having self-belief.
Further details on Collis training at http://www.collis.richmond.sch.uk/new-thinking-training/

Various resources were mentioned including websites, children's books and newspapers all of which aim to break down barriers and inspire the children.

KH welcomed any contacts/resources that parents would like to pass on.

AOB

1. We have a new suggestions box in the school office.

2. Brief discussion on school visits.

CONCLUSION

As this was the last meeting of the year, KH thanked all the members for their participation this year. Discussions have raised important points and the group has provided an excellent sounding board on which to test new ideas and policies. We will be asking for a new group of volunteers in September.