COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENT FOCUS GROUP (PFG)
18th May 2016

MINUTES

PRESENT

School:

Kevin Hogston	Headteacher & Chair
Jane Way	Deputy Headteacher
Denece Hart	Governor

Parent members:

	Year Grp	Children	Representation
Richard Sharples	Nursery	Nursery, Yr 2	Dads
Paul Dowsett	Reception	Reception	Dads
Jessica Petelin	Year 1	Yr 1	
Carolyn Jones	Year 2	Reception, Yr 2	
Amanda Eliades	Year 2	Yrs 2, 3, 6	
Maha Newell	Year 3	Yrs 1, 3, 5	Working parent
Pauliina Purnell	Year 4	Yr 4	Working parent
Kirsty Brown	Year 5	Yrs 2, 5	
Petra Fleming	Year 5	Rec, Yrs 5, 6	
Victoria Hodson	Year 6	Yrs 3, 6	Working parent
Heather Tomlinson	Year 3	Yrs 3, 6	

APOLOGIES

Sophie Kay	Assistant Headteacher
Julia Combe	Governor

Rachel Derrick	Year 1	Yrs 1, 3, 5	SEN
Helen Danzey	Year 4	Yr 4	
Nina Bradburn	Year 6	Yrs 1, 4, 6	
Nafisa Chomoko	Reception	Reception, Yr 4	

WHAT'S WORKING WELL - POSITIVE FEEDBACK

Group members highlighted the following:

1. KS1 SATs were administered in a very friendly atmosphere, the children were unaware they were happening! Year 6 children 'enjoyed' their SATs tests. Breakfast before the tests went down extremely well.

   KH commented that the Year 2 SATs were deliberately kept very low key. The Year 6 tests, however, were more challenging as curriculum standards are much higher this year. The breakfasts were introduced to get the children into school early, to minimise any nerves and to give them a very positive team building start to the day. The breakfasts were very successful and cost relatively little, given the benefits.

2. Allowing children to use the playground after school until 3.45pm is working very well and appreciated by families. There was a reminder that parents need to supervise their children during this period.

3. Lots of positive feedback received about Forest Schools (outside learning in the nature trail).

4. Parents accompanying children on school visits feel that class groups rather than year groups make a much better experience for the children, staff and the parent helpers. The school will look at this in our planning.

5. First-aid training, recently delivered to Year 3 children and soon to be delivered to Year 6, has been very well received.

6. The new-look newsletter format seems popular, easy to read, diary dates are very useful.

VOLUNTARY PARENT DONATION

KH asked the group for general feedback.

The group thought the fund had been well received by parents, but that parents would appreciate more information about how much money has been raised and how the money is going to be spent. What does the school want to buy? What are its targets? It was suggested a 'target thermometer' be introduced to the front page of the newsletter that would illustrate progress at a glance and also give details of how parents can make their donation.

KH recognised that it will take a few years for the fund to be well established and that although the take up so far has been pretty low, it was felt that many more families will donate at the start of the new school year in September.

KH confirmed that we are now able to register the fund with the Charity Commission, which will enable families to obtain tax relief and gift-aid their contribution. This will be set up in the Autumn Term.

The group asked if other ways of raising money were being considered. KH reported that various ideas are being considered particularly after-school clubs and lettings.

MAKE UP OF THE PARENT FOCUS GROUP NEXT YEAR

KH was pleased that so many parents had shown an interest in joining the group (currently over 40 parents). He suggested changing the group annually while still keeping representation across all year groups, working parents, SEN and dads. Other representative groups will be considered. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

CATS

KH reported that CATS will be offering eight more places from September. The school intends increasing the size of CATS at a later date.

The introduction of an on-line booking system was suggested. It would enable parents to use CATS on a more ad hoc basis, if spaces were available. KH will investigate.

HOMEWORK

A parent expressed concern about the children being required to use some aspects of the internet to complete homework projects. It was agreed that overall the internet is a good research tool that supports homework. KH will discuss with the Senior Leadership Team.

The amount of homework being set was discussed. Jane Way pointed out that previous Parent Surveys have shown an equal split between parents who thought too much homework is set and those who thought there is too little! It was largely agreed that the right amount was set in each year group.

AOB

At the last meeting members expressed interest in having a better understanding of children with special educational needs, particularly those with autism or Down's. Rachel Derrick has been working with Sally Franklin (SENCo) to produce a one page guide that will be available on the website and in the newsletter shortly.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Composition of the Parents Focus Group
Dressing up days
Uniform

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 1 July, 2.00 pm