



Celebrating Diversity,
Learning Together

COLSTON'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SCHOOL GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER

TERM 2 DEC 2017

COMMUNITY NEWS | GOVERNOR HEADLINES

During the first term of our 70th anniversary year, the governing body has:

Contributed to and congratulated staff on a successful spot check OFSTED inspection in September. The report confirmed the school as 'good' and spot on with its plans of action going forward. It was heartening to hear the inspector's comments about our school's overall performance, and praise for palpable evidence of our motto: 'celebrating diversity, learning together' which "threads through all aspects of school life". There can be no doubt that Mr Bell and team are leading the school in the right direction for the children as directed by our school vision statement, governing body objectives and school development plan. Please refer to the website for further information on any of this. A governor monitoring plan is in place to continue tracking school progress, holding it firmly to account as per the governing body's role as 'critical friend'.

Approved a comparably healthy set of Annual Accounts for the year end 2017, and established a fundraising strategy to try and help boost core funding as we move into 2018. Well done to the business team at school for suring up finances for our school in the current financially challenging climate for education in the UK.

Agreed to change the school name for September 2018 further to consultation with all school stakeholders. Thank you to everybody who helped make this landmark decision for our school looking forward. The consultation sparked much education for us all and in particular the children; and has spawned further inspiring history and heritage projects for the children going into 2018. News on how to help governors choose a new name together to follow soon. In the meantime we are concentrating on celebrating the 70 fantastic years gone by ...

Launched a 70th Anniversary Celebration strategy which is being rolled out in school via the Co-operative Forum to ensure all stakeholders are given the opportunity for input and involvement. Two key projects already in development include:

[A time-line project due to be launched in January and a birthday festival set for the summer. Current pupils, staff, parents and governors are inviting alumni to be involved in a memory sharing project that will feed into the time-line - both physically in school and digitally on our website.](#)

[An anniversary summer festival where we will be exhibiting the final timeline exhibition and having a general celebration for reaching the grand age of 70 - birthday cake and all. We will be extending an invite to all of our community stakeholders. Keep an eye on the website for further news on this.](#)

Drawn up clear working guidelines for setting up and operating co-operative working groups along with the Co-operative Forum. Thank you to the co-operative forum for input and support on co-operative projects. A meaningful and equitable co-operation has properly established between governors and the school community since we became a Co-operative Academy in 2012; ensuring we shape the direction of the school together.

Personnel

We welcomed parent, Jamey Wilkinson onto our board of governors in September. Governors co-opted Jamey for her HR skills and experience. She has already been putting these to good use in appraising the school's policies relating to staffing matters. Many thanks to Jamey, who says:

"I am a parent of two children now at Colston's, Rui in Reception and Maya in year 3. They both love the school and as a parent I love Colston's too, as I see how happy they are, the confidence they gain each year and the opportunities they engage with at the school.

I have been impressed by systems and processes in place and the school name consultation is just one great example of a total school effort with Governors' support and drive to ensure the process was fair, thorough and informative. I am excited to join what is a very hardworking team of governors, who all put in so much time and effort to help serve the school.

With a background in HR I can support with the Finance And Staffing committee with Emma Gledhill. I'm also looking forward to helping out on all the exciting 70th anniversary projects as well and being part of the collaborative efforts that are part of the reason our school is so great!"

We currently have the following governor vacancies:

2 staff governors

Any staff interested please talk to Emily Young or Alex Bell

1 co-operative partnership governor

1 co-opted governor with legal expertise

ideally a lawyer with education specialism from outside of our community - if anybody has contacts with a law firm that would 'lend' one of their employees to our governing body, please do be in touch

1 community governor

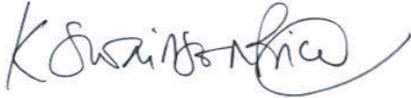
The criteria for this role is simply to live within a mile of the school and be the voice of the local community

Please be in touch with expressions of interest for any of the above positions via our Clerk, Leanne Sowersby on governors@colstonsprimary.co.uk

For an informal chat about what is involved please do feel free to contact me on chair.governors@colstonsprimary.co.uk.

Enjoy the festive season!

On behalf of the governing body



Kate Swainson Price
Chair of Governors



The Schools
Co-operative Society

Colston's School Co-operative Forum

Colston's Primary is a Cooperative Academy. This means that it is independent from the Local Education Authority, but rather than being owned by a business it is run as a cooperative of our members - pupils, staff, parents, local community members and governors (who have the ultimate say). Each of these groups has representatives that attend regular forum meetings to discuss issues raised by the stakeholders they represent.

Mr Alex Jarman is the staff co-operative Lead, chairs Co-operative Forum Meetings where Co-op reps meet, and co-ordinates input from the Learners' Forum (pupil reps). For all things co-operative you can contact Alex on cooperative@colstonsprimary.co.uk

Current co-op forum reps:

Learners Forum: made up of children reps for each year group

Staff: Alex Jarman, Josette Bush, Ali Berry, Gianna Colligiani, Jenni Davis, Mike Reddecliffe

Parents/Carers: Susy Giullari, Mel Jady, Sarah Barea, Tabitha Ross, Adelaide Santos

Local Community: Pauline Allen (also a governor), Clare and Alex George from Cornerstone Church

Co-operative Values

Democracy

...we listen to each other and value what everyone says!

Equality

...we are all given the same chances to do our best!

Equity

...we make sure everyone is treated equally and fairly!

Self-Help

...we help everyone to help themselves!

Self-Responsibility

...it is up to us to make good choices!

Solidarity

...we stick together!

Current areas in 'co-operative' development:

70th anniversary celebration projects

The new school name for 2018

Cotham Grove playground plans

School food monitoring

Avenue House links



A Report from the Learners Forum

Here's a quick update on what's been going on at the Learners' Forum in the last couple of weeks. Despite only having gone 4 months into the school year, everybody has decided to get stuck in with all the things we have been doing to benefit the school and the local community. Whether it be donating food to the North Bristol Food Bank or raising money for Children In Need, everyone has contributed and given some great ideas. Our hardest decision yet was definitely the dilemma of the name change, a very controversial topic, which left many wavering between two sides. We decided the best thing to do was to show our (and your) views to the governors in a clear and precise way, letting them have the final say. The food bank appeal is underway, thanks to many creative minds on the learners Forum (with a little help from all you adults.) All there is to say now is we hope you have a great festive season, and a well-deserved rest!

Report by Imogen, 6A

A word from the co-operative parent reps:

As a parent you can become a co-op member, which means you can have a say and more crucially a vote on important decisions - join up online via the school website. Or you can go a step further and become a parent rep, attending forum meetings and getting further involved! Over the past year, some of the achievements of the parents reps include:

- Requesting parental consultation on potential school name change, supporting consultation events and online survey;
- Helping create the healthy food policy, used as the basis for tender for new caterers;
- Getting parent input into new playground ideas through survey and analysis;
- Increasing language provision at school, including language teaching during school hours, and being instrumental in establishing four after-school language clubs.

Your current parent reps are Susy Giullari (Chair), Adelaide Santos, Mel Jady, Sarah Bateau, and Tabitha Ross.

Please do be in contact on: cooperative.parent.reps@gmail.com



Colston's Primary School's PTAF is the fundraising arm of the school community and very fortunate in having enthusiastic and hardworking class reps, a knowledgeable and experienced committee and supportive, generous parents and carers.

This is our first newsletter of the new academic year, and as such we would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new members of our community in the three reception classes (as well as any new arrivals in other years). In the past we have been guilty of making assumptions that everyone knows what we mean by 'tea and cakes' and other such Colston's institutions. We are therefore making an effort to be more descriptive about what things are, but if unclear please do let us know or ask us/other parents.

Our AGM in September was the best attended for some time and we were able to plan a busy schedule of events for our anniversary year.

We have held two record breaking events this autumn, a Spooky Disco and a Christmas Fair, both of which swelled our coffers by thousands of pounds; the disco by **£2000** and the fair by **£2600**.

Year 1 reps Ella Remes, Hayley Swift, Gaynor Ashdown, Eliza Guerrini and Tom Davies laid on an atmospheric disco with great music, costumes, food and games.

OUR CHRISTMAS FAIR



Each year group excelled themselves running a variety of stalls at the Christmas Fair creating a wonderful atmosphere. No one seemed to want to leave!

Fiona Sweeting and Mel Jady have done a sterling job organising Christmas tree sales on 2/9 December; always a good money spinner. (We are writing this before 9/12 so no final figure available till after Christmas).

Thank you also to Jane Parry and Sarah Farnfield who have given budding artists a chance to design their own Christmas and greetings cards. (£400)

Ice cream sales generated more income for the PTAF as the mild weather held till half term and we are grateful to Vicki Scammell for keeping freezers full.

Tea and Cakes sales have been held by Years 4, 5 and 6 which have raised extra money to be spent on class activities. For those new to the school, tea & cakes are held throughout the year, with each year group leading one tea & cakes on their respective site, selling cakes to everyone in the school. The money raised by these events goes straight back to that year group to be spent accordingly by that year's teachers.

We have three new ways of raising money;

Rania, a mother in 2J and her friends, have done three cake sales

Juliet has organised the much loved Colston's tea towels which have been on sale before Christmas. Every grandparent should have one! (We will know how much we made after Christmas).

Also, please register with **www.easyfundraising** as online shopping generates money for the school. There are now 46 of you signed up, which is a 180% increase over the past 4 weeks, but still represents a tiny % of our community! Nevertheless, it has effortlessly raised £135. This is where you need to go:
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/IYWK02>



We are always open to new ideas for raising funds for the school via the PTAF. For example, we are planning to have a merchandise app with a wide range of items available for purchase ...watch this space! If you have any fundraising ideas, we would love to hear from you.

We have been able to give the school £7000, out of which £4500 has been spent on laptops and £2500 on books. We have paid for books for KS1 children who will receive one each at their end of term parties. We are continuing to pay for the librarian (£3000) and have agreed to pay for DBS checks for volunteers who help out at the Secret Garden (for those who haven't seen it, it is at Cotham Grove behind 2B classroom and is tended by Year 4 children and volunteer adults).

We are very excited about plans for the playground and will be donating £5000 towards it.

We would like to remind you that PTAF meetings are open to everyone. The next one is on 10 January at Cotham Grove library at 7.30 pm. If you have anything you want to be discussed, please contact your class rep or Juliet or Maija.

We welcome feedback of all kinds! We have installed a PTAF post box at the Cotham Grove entrance for parents and carers to give us feedback, ideas, brickbats and bouquets. Please feel free to use it as we really appreciate your comments and want to make the PTAF as approachable and inclusive as possible. You can also give feedback by email on majja.alan@gmail.com or juliet@julietholder.co.uk

We can't begin to thank all of you enough for your support and hard work and look forward to more successful events in 2018.

Here is a reminder of our list of planned events thus far for 2018.

Look out for further information nearer to each event:

26 January	Film Night for the children
2 February	Bingo Night with Music for the whole family
23 February	Reception Tea and Cakes
2 March	Quiz Night for the adults
23 March	Year 2 Tea and Cakes
20 April	Year 5 event
4 May	Year 1 Tea and Cakes
11 May	Year 2 Table Top Sale
14-18 May	Arts Week
23 June	Summer Festival

2018

There are several ways to be kept informed about what we are up to:

Via the weekly school newsletter which you will all receive via parentpay, or you can pick up a hard copy on either site

Via extra parentpay messages

Via emails from your class rep

There is also parental activity via the school-related facebook groups, including the Colston's Digital Playground (contact Susy Giullari on susannagiullari@yahoo.co.uk), and year group-specific facebook groups (ask your class rep - see list at end of newsletter).

Have a good Christmas break and our best wishes for the festive period and a good start to 2018.

Maija Lawrence, Chair of PTAF and Juliet Holder, Vice Chair of PTAF
maija.alan@gmail.com juliet@julietholder.co.uk

LIST of THE PTAF CLASS REPS

Reception

Dragonflies	Havi Carel	havi.carel@gmail.com
Ladybirds	Meryl Simons	merylsimons@gmail.com
Honeybees	Alice and Matt Darley	aliceandmatt06@gmail.com

Year 1

Starlings	Ella Remes	ellaremes@yahoo.co.uk
Nightingales	Hayley Swift and Tom Davies	hayley.swift@bristol.gov.uk tedavies@me.com
Kingfishers	Gaynor Ashdown and Eliza Guerrini	gctashdown@gmail.com elizaguerrini@gmail.com

2J	Cairo Sealey	cairosealey@gmail.com
2B	Oonagh Koppel	oonaghkoppel@hotmail.com
2Y	Fred Witham	fredwitham@yahoo.co.uk
3T	Jill Rolt	jillpotterton@hotmail.com
3LC	Daisy Brown	daisybrown01@hotmail.com
4H	Saru Walker	sarumangwana@hotmail.com
4A	Trudi Haughton and Lucy Cooper	claire_woman@hotmail.com lucycooper@live.co.uk
4W	Vikki Halliday	vikkihalliday67@gmail.com
5M	Claire Burston	hcburston@yahoo.co.uk
5B	Kate Rambridge	kate.rambridge@gmail.com
6A/J	Mel Jady and Heidi Andrews	meljady@hotmail.com heidiandrews86@gmail.com

