



Celebrating Diversity,
Learning Together

COLSTON'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SCHOOL GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER

TERM 4 SPRING 2018

COMMUNITY NEWS | GOVERNOR HEADLINES

70th Anniversary Year

Governors are thrilled to see the way in which the 70th anniversary celebrations are panning out. At the time of writing some of us are looking forward to attending a special 70th Anniversary Timeline Assembly on Friday 23rd March. We've been invited to see a showcase of the children's historical research work to date. Thank you to Mike Reddecliff for co-ordinating all the school work so far, along with Ruth Myers and Pete Insole of Local Learning who have been facilitating some special project work around researching the school's history. We are interested to hear that as the project moves on, some children will look at the wider context of their school and its name, taking part in a heritage schools council led project to design a new plaque for the Colston statue in the Centre.

We're pleased to hear the 70th anniversary Playground Appeal is going well. It is amazing to hear how the Match Fund Challenge has captured the children's imagination, and to witness the community support for this overall. Thank you also, to the generous individual who has match funded the PTAF pledge towards the playground appeal. In tandem with all this good news, we are also pleased to hear that playground development designs are being fine tuned, and that plans to implement phase 1, the year 6 area, over the summer term are underway. We are also looking forward to the anniversary festival and special birthday party on 30th June.

This anniversary year has also been the moment in history the school community decided the time has come to choose a new name. A consultative 'name choosing' process is underway and a new name will be voted through in due course.

70 will certainly be a well marked milestone in the history of the school. It's great to see children, staff and parents getting behind the celebrations and events - another palpable demonstration of the school doing what it says on the tin: 'Celebrating Diversity, Learning Together'



Committee News

Fundraising Committee

Governors agreed to pilot a fundraising strategy based around an appeal campaign this year. You might have noticed that the school's chosen area of focus this year is the playground. The Fundraising Committee, made up of governors, staff and professional fundraisers from our community are supporting this current appeal. If anybody in the school community can offer further support via grant writing, business support, charitable giving schemes available via your places of work, or in any other way other than the usual brilliant fundraising we all do within our community, please do be in touch via chair.governors@colstonsprimary.co.uk.

The committee is looking, ultimately, at the options and viability for the school to establish a culture of sustainable fundraising that ties in with the school vision, aims and objectives and maximises opportunities to improve outcomes for the children. It is looking at the potential of fundraising for school project work like the current Heritage Schools funded history project, as well as capital projects such as the current playground appeal.

The fundraising committee has recently made some recommendations to the Full Governing Body in relation to reports about school activity to date, will evaluate the success of this pilot year, and make suggested recommendations to school based on this moving into 2018/19.



Multi Academy Trust (MAT) Committee

We are into our second year of having a Governor MAT Committee in place. Led by Alex Bell and Jamey Wilkinson, this committee continues to monitor MAT related matters in relation to our school, the local and national landscape. We have been working more closely with some NW24 school Heads and Governors with whom we have found common ground in relation to collaborative working and improving outcomes for as many pupils as possible. The NW24 Learning Partnership is an informal cluster of schools to which we belong and which provides a mutual support network for staff and governors alike. At the time of writing, the MAT Committee was due to make its most recent recommendations to the Full Governing Body in relation to how our school should proceed in relation to MAT options.

Outcomes Committee

Steve Purdie chairs the Outcomes Committee. The committee has met three times this year to receive reports around children's progress and related policies in line with the school development plan, and link governors have been carrying out monitoring in relation to the school development plan. Thank you to all staff who have attended these sessions to keep us up to speed. Particular congratulations to Dave Millington for winning the school the ArtsMark Gold award. The governors are very proud of this achievement by the school; so pleased that the arts are being properly conserved and integrated into the school's offer to children. This can only maximise the opportunities for the best outcomes for all children, all round.

Finance and Staffing Committee

Emma Gledhill chairs this committee, leading on finance, while and Jamey Wilkinson leads on staffing matters. The committee has met regularly to monitor the financial and staff management of the school, related policies and to make decision recommendations to the Full Governing Body.

Premises Committee

Pauline Allen chairs this committee which has met regularly to monitor school activities and policies in relation to the school premises, including upkeep of both sites, health and safety, the risk register, catering, pre and post school activities on site and anything else pertaining to the school premises. Most recently the governors were pleased to support the petition to the Council around traffic calming measures at the Elmgrove site which was brought to the Premises Committee via the Co-op Forum.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

You may be aware that new legislation is coming into force on May 25th. Governors are working with Kate Patience, Business Manager, to ensure school is compliant with this new legislation.

Governor Personnel

At the time of writing we were looking forward to welcoming Imran Nazir to observe, as a nominated community governor, at our Full Governing Body Meeting on Thursday 15th March. We still have vacancies for 2 staff governors and a co-opted governor, ideally with legal expertise. Please contact Leanne Sowersby, our Clerk to Governors, with expressions of interest on governors@colstonsprimary.co.uk.

From all the governing team to all of you

Kate Swainson Price (Chair)
Steve Purdie (Vice-Chair, Outcomes Chair)
Emma Gledhill (Finance and Staffing Chair)
Jamey Wallace (Staffing Lead)
Pauline Allen (Premises Chair)
Katy Dunscombe
Emily Warren-Ballard

Nicholas Woodroffe
Niklas Serning
Sally Reardon
Alex Bell (Headteacher)
Kate Patience (non-voting Business Manager)
Emily Young
Leanne Sowersby (Clerk)

If you are interested in finding out more information about school governance, visit the school website



The Schools
Co-operative Society



Colston's PTAF Newsletter Spring 2018

The last two terms have centred around the Playground Appeal by the Governors, the school and the PTAF. It is very impressive how parents and children have got behind it and invented amazing ways to raise money.

Juliet and I are on the committee to organise a big party in June so watch this space.

We have had two sell-out events, a Film Night and a Bingo Night.

A third one, a Quiz Night, unfortunately had to be postponed due to inclement weather.

PTAF has pledged £5000 towards the Playground Appeal and a donor is adding another £5000 to the pot. We are very grateful to the anonymous individual who is obviously a person of great discernment who appreciates the hard work members of PTAF do.

Bingo Night

This was a great family event fuelled by Pieminister Pies. Our thanks go to Year 6 reps Mel Jady and Heidi Andrews for organising it, all the parents who served and washed up and to Ollie the caller who has obviously missed his vocation and should be appearing at the local Mecca.

We thank Mr. Millington who again entertained us by his wonderful playing.

This event is a keeper and raised £413.

New treasurer

We give a warm welcome to Andrew Stephenson who has hit the ground running by setting up online banking, discovering a missing cheque, delving into files going back a decade and providing a detailed report of our finances.

It showed that the Spring Fair, Christmas Fair and Spooky Disco all exceeded the previous ones by £1000.

Film Night

Year 3 reps Jill Potterton and Daisy Brown brought 'Captain Underpants' to 180 excited parents and children. His adventures were enjoyed by all and inroads were made into pop corn and a selection of sweets. Mr. Insall kindly acted as the projectionist and the event made £481.

Tea and Cakes

It was Reception's turn to hold a Tea and Cakes sale at Elmgrove in February.

The money goes to the classes to spend as the teachers choose and they raised £213.74. Thank you Havi Carel, Meryl Simons and Alice Darley and all the parents who baked and bought the goodies. They also ran a stall to raise money for the Playground Appeal which made £67.47.

Year 2 will run their Tea and Cakes sale on the last day of term at Cotham.

Tea towels

An update on sales of tea towels - we didn't have any figures before Christmas.

We have made about £500 and still have some available (apart from year 3).

Many thanks to Juliet Holder for the mammoth task of getting every child to draw their likeness (!) and ordering the towels. Please contact us if you or every relative you have hasn't got one.

What we have funded recently

Librarian £3166 iPads £4500 Life skills £595

T-shirts and sweatshirts

We have these sizes available:

Size 7-8, 11 red and 16 navy sweatshirts

Size 9-11, 2 blue, 1 navy and 1 red t-shirts and 2 red polo shirts

Size Small, 2 blue and 1 navy sweatshirts and 3 red t-shirts

Please contact Juliet or Maija

How to put in a funding request

In the first instance, please contact Mr. Bell, Kate Patience or Maija or Juliet.

Easyfundraising

If you do online shopping, this website is for you.

Shops and companies donate a percentage to the school so it doesn't cost you any extra. Please have a look and register. We have so far raised £188.

PTAF Post Box

You can post ideas, comments and complaints in our new black box next to Cotham reception. We would like to hear from you and will do our best to act on them.

Upcoming PTAF events

23 March Year 2 Tea and Cakes

13 April Year 3 Tea and Cakes

18 April PTAF meeting at Cotham library, 7.30 pm

20 April Swishing Evening

27 April Quiz Night

4 May Year 1 Tea and Cakes

11 May Year 2 Table Top Sale

18 May Dance Event organised by Reception

13 June PTAF meeting at Cotham library, 7.30 pm

26-29 June Arts Week

30 June Grand 70th Birthday Party

PTAF meetings are open to all parents and carers, you are welcome.

Please keep reading our news in the school's Friday newsletter.

We can't thank enough each and every rep, committee member, parent and carer and member of staff for their hard work, dedication and support. We are so lucky to have you on board and it makes helping PTAF enjoyable (speaking for myself, of course!).

Enjoy the Easter break.

Maija Lawrence Chair of PTAF maija.alan@gmail.com

Juliet Holder Vice-Chair of PTAF

juliet@julietholder.co.uk





News from the Cooperative parent reps

Colston's is a cooperative academy, and parents can get involved in the running of the school through joining the cooperative, attending termly forums, or even becoming a parent coop rep. Current parent reps are Susy Giullari (chair), Sarah Bateau, Kate Highton, Mel Jady, Tabitha Ross and Adelaide Santos. Here is an update from us on what we've been up to and achieved this term.

Ensuring quality school food.

Currently getting involved in a working group to monitor the new catering and our food policy. On the group will be the school business manager, coop parent rep, a parent nutritionist, hopefully a member of the catering team, and perhaps members of the children's learning council. And anyone else who wants to join! Contact Adelaide at cooperative.parent.reps@gmail.com for more info.

Making the roads by the school safe.

Our newest parent rep, Kate Highton, has been setting up a traffic group to improve road safety around the two school sites, especially Elmgrove (even though she is new to the school and to Bristol!). She is working with school governor Kate Price, and Catherine Burridge, a parent at Elmgrove and living opposite the school, who has been very concerned about traffic danger, and organised for local councillor Negus to attend a recent coop forum.

Sign the road safety petition!

There is now a council petition live to address traffic around Colston's. Please sign here!! And share with your neighbours, especially if you live close to school. We need at least 1000 signatures for the council to take action, currently we have only 160.

Supporting the playground appeal and 70th birthday celebrations.

We are working with PTAF, the international group and governors to plan the school's 70th birthday party on 30 June.

Supporting strong school-parent communication.

We are here to represent your views about the school, good or bad! Tell us of any new issues, suggestions for change and things you are happy with it. You can contact us via the Colston Digital Playground on Facebook which has 193 parent members and is a secret group. Please join if you have not done so already. If you are on FB you can either ask one of your school parent friends who is already on CDP to add you, or you can ask any of us in the playground or by email.

Planning a parents' cultural exchange workshop.

This will run during international week, on Tuesday 24 from 9 to 10am, and again from 3.30 to 4.30. The aim is to promote better communication and inclusion amongst children and parents of all cultures. We will be looking at things such as playdates, birthday parties, looking after other children, discipline and parental intervention, communicating with school staff.

Any more themes, ideas are very welcome.

Exploring running an auction of promises.

This would be to support the playground appeal fundraising, and some funds for ongoing cooperative activities.

You can contact us about any of this and more at cooperative.parent.reps@gmail.com