



Celebrating Diversity,
Learning Together

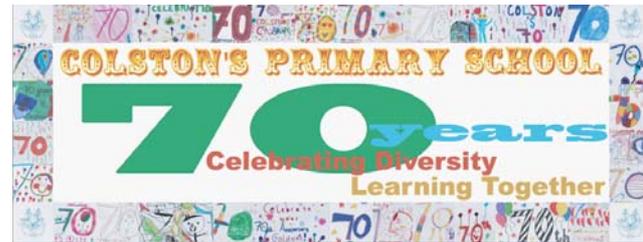
70
YEARS

COLSTON'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SCHOOL GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER

TERM 6 JULY 2018

A Year Celebrating the school's 70th anniversary

Having set an overall objective for school to mark and celebrate the school's 70th anniversary this year, it's been fantastic to see the whole school community get behind it. A myriad anniversary projects have evolved over the year to mark and celebrate 70 years of our school.



School Name Review

Further to a lively community debate a decision was taken change the school name from Colston's Primary to Cotham Gardens Primary from September 2018. New logo designs based on the children's ideas and drawings were on display at the anniversary summer fair party. The two designs are in further final stages of development before with a firm decision to be made by governors before the end of term.



Special history and heritage projects included:

- An eclectic timeline of seven decades of the school life is now on display around the school walls
- A digital timeline displaying alumni memories which continues to evolve on the school website
- Special alumni events from which pupil's findings have been captured in a special Alumni Memories book on display in the library
- Year 6 pupils involvement in a Bristol City Council project to design a new plaque for Colston's statue

Anniversary £70K for 70 years playground fundraising appeal

Just over £40K has been raised thanks to some mighty community fundraising efforts from children, staff, parents/carers, alumni/alumnae, and local businesses, boosted further by some generous match fund donors.

Cotham Grove site playground redevelopment work has begun. Taking into account our initial consultation outcomes the Touchwood Play team has developed ideas via some adventurous workshops with the children and discussions with the Playground Steering Group. A resultant masterplan will be unveiled in September and rolled out in phases subject to available funds.

The appeal continues on to December 2018. If you can help support us to reach our target - via match funding schemes at your places of work or in any other way - please do be in touch via the school office. Direct donations can be made on the BTMyDonate appeal page which you can find on the school website - About Us/Playground Appeal.

Much festivity ...

A special anniversary festival took place in Term 6 including timeline exhibitions, birthday cake competition, bake off competition, Touchwood Play workshops, a commemorative aerial photo of children in the formation of a 70, and an anniversary themed arts week of decoration and costume making as well as the debut of Colston's Got Talent.

This led up to the grand finale summer anniversary fair and party on June 30th where resultant decorations, costumes and performances helped to 'make' the party what it was. The sunshine made everything glisten and the anniversary year felt truly and happily marked by pupils, staff, parents and carers, governors and members of the local community,

As a school that prides itself on community involvement it was wonderful also that local Councillors and alumni both Lord Mayor Cllr Cleo Lake and Deputy Mayor Cllr Asher Craig, came to our party. And how lovely to see the day captured and celebrated in all its festive colour and glory in a centre page spread in the Bristol Post.



Business as usual 2017/18

While the 70th anniversary activities and events have fed into and enriched the children's learning this year, 'business as usual' has been continuing apace via the core school development plan 2017-18 underlying the anniversary frill.

School started the year achieving a 'Good' OFSTED rating in September further to a spot check inspection confirmation and validation that school is doing its best for the children and continues to strive to do even better.

Further to this, governors were thrilled to hear that school achieved the Artsmark Gold Award this year. As a governing body we are keen to see the arts as an integral part of the school curriculum. So we are pleased to see them flourishing here at a time when national curriculum requires less and less as a minimum requirement.

Our final Full Governing Body Meeting on July 5th was very positive. We approved a healthy budget and were updated on assuring staffing news for next year. We were updated on Multi Academy Trust working group research and heard a very encouraging Outcomes Committee report including positive news of much improved phonics progress and attainment as well as inspiring plans for the arts, sports, literacy and numeracy. We were also pleased to see pupil numbers creeping steadily up to very nearly full and the incremental expansion of the school on track.

Finally, hot off the press at the time of writing are first reports of a strong set of Key Stage 2 results 2018.

Looking forward to 2018/19

The governing body annual self evaluation provided a useful steer for future governor action plans. We look forward to the unveiling of the new school development plan in full in September and putting together a robust monitoring programme together in support.

We continue to subscribe to and work collaboratively with fellow NW24 Teaching and Learning Partnership schools at governor level, as do the school staff. This is a network of local schools who share best practice and find mutually beneficial ways of working together for our pupils as a collective.



Governor Personnel

We said goodbye to Nick Woodroffe who has been a governor for seven years. Always a helpful voice around the table, Nick's input as a parent governor and latterly a co-opted governor has been very valuable. Nick has seen the school through academisation, expansion and name change.

We thanked Nick with a 70th anniversary mug amongst other treats and wish him well as leaves saying "I really enjoyed being a school governor and if I can do it anybody can.

My biggest sadness in leaving is that I can no longer talk football with Mr Bell. England didn't get to the final of the World Cup. What a shame. The World Cup represented men from all over the world but not women. That's over 50% of the world's population. I look forward to a Colston's girl being in a future World Cup final and scoring the winning goal."

We were also pleased to welcome some new faces to our final meeting of the year. We are delighted to have elected Imran Nazir onto the Board as a Community Governor.

A further two 'observers' also attended with a view to standing for election in September. One parent governor vacancy will come available in October, and we are currently looking for one more staff governor and a community governor to fulfil the right balance of representation. We would also benefit from legal skills and experience.

Visit the governor page on the school website to find out more and how to be in touch.

We look forward to more 'Celebrating Diversity, Learning Together' as Cotham Gardens Primary from September.

With all good wishes for a lovely summer, on behalf of the governing body

Kate Swainson Price
Chair of Governors



The Schools
Co-operative Society



Something to think about over the summer?
Please visit our governor webpages for further information,
and contact governors@colstonsprimaryschool.co.uk
with expressions of interest.