



Parent Voice 2018

	<b>What works well</b>	<b>How could it be improved</b>	<b>What we are going to do</b>
<b>Understanding the curriculum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work-shops for parents; Year 2 maths sessions were excellent! Parents/child joined in together. Made a big impact on our understanding of maths.</li> <li>• Teachers are approachable to explain topics.</li> <li>• Phonics workshops are extremely useful and helpful.</li> <li>• Maths and English curriculum workshops for parents have been informative.</li> <li>• When parents speak to individual teachers regarding curriculum matters, things are explained well.</li> <li>• Half term newsletter with the topic.</li> <li>• Curriculum meetings are helpful and informative.</li> <li>• Going into the classroom and observing a session.</li> <li>• Impressed by the nursery, trips, forest school.</li> <li>• Nursery is very imaginative in the set up and resources, it's great!</li> <li>• Love topics, creative curriculum.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having evening workshops for working parents.</li> </ul>	We have tried this in the past and they were not well attended.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having advance warning of these workshops to plan and rearrange times off work.</li> </ul>	The dates for Family Fridays are circulated in the newsletter at the end of the previous half term.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The website is too hard to understand, it needs to be redesigned and made friendly for parents. It should have clear information available to parents to look up about the curriculum.</li> </ul>	We're going to run a Parent Forum this half term where we will explain the school website and ask for feedback.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it possible to have videos of the workshops on the web-site for parents to access?</li> </ul>	Good idea – we'll look into this!
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents would like more information about the PSHE/SRE curriculum i.e. what is covered in each year group before these sessions with children take place (e.g. workshops or handouts sent home)</li> </ul>	We can run a Family Friday about this. The content for each year group is in the Human Development and Relationships Policy which is on the school website.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not as much fun as the children move up the school, may be more active learning experiences</li> </ul>	One of our School Improvement Targets is to make sure learning is deep, rich and relevant so hopefully this helps make sure children enjoy their learning throughout the school.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good arts provision.</li> <li>• It's positive that children don't get much home work.</li> <li>• Book bags are good.</li> <li>• Teaching is good.</li> <li>• Children are excited to learn.</li> <li>• Children and parents are supported in understanding the curriculum.</li> <li>• There are good links between subject areas.</li> <li>• Approach to curriculum learning is very creative.</li> <li>• Methods and perspectives vary- this is positive.</li> <li>• Maths mastery- new project is excellent.</li> <li>• Family Fridays are good for demonstrations of the maths curriculum.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could the forest school continue throughout the school?</li> </ul>	<p>Unfortunately, curriculum restraints make it impossible for Forest School to continue.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More trips related to the curriculum – money has been raised, where has it gone?</li> </ul>	<p>We agree! As part of developing our topic curriculum, we are aiming to increase the number of trips children attend.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More sports and music.</li> </ul>	<p>Music is a strength of the school with all children in Yr 3 learning the ocarina and all children from Yr 4 upwards having the option of learning a musical instrument. All children have two sport sessions a week.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bullets on roughly what each subject looks like.</li> </ul>	<p>This information is included in the Curriculum Newsletter each half term.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some parents would like more homework to be given in the upper years.</li> </ul>	<p>We have increased the amount of homework children receive as they get older. It feels like we have the right balance at the moment.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once homework has been set it needs to be marked or looked at.</li> </ul>	<p>Rather than marking the work, teachers check how the children have got on and then use this to inform their future work.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Books need to be changed regularly and more given.</li> </ul>	<p>For younger children, their books should be changed approximately every week. For older children, it will depend on how quickly they read them. If you are concerned, please talk to your child's class teacher.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High attaining children should be challenged more.</li> </ul>	<p>Please talk to your child's class teacher or Ollie if you have specific concerns about this.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific comments about child's progression would be great.</li> </ul>	<p>Parents are given feedback about their child's progress in the parent conferences. If you are concerned about your child's progress,</p>

			please make an additional meeting with the teacher.
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<p><b>How welcoming is our school?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school is very welcoming, friendly reception staff, teachers and Olly greeting parents and children in the mornings.</li> <li>• Olly knowing every child's name, very impressive.</li> <li>• Some teachers are very friendly.</li> <li>• Reception.</li> <li>• Olly and all the senior management are great. It is great that he comes along to the coffee mornings.</li> <li>• Open days in the nursery.</li> <li>• Generally a happy place.</li> <li>• Odd socks day for Children in Need was great.</li> <li>• Head teacher/senior staff welcoming parents and children in the mornings.</li> <li>• Front office staff are very welcoming, know children by name which makes it special.</li> <li>• Parents' room.</li> <li>• Parents' notice board.</li> <li>• Notice boards next to classrooms are really informative and useful.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Olly to be available once a week at breakfast club for working parents to be greeted by him.</li> </ul>	Great idea!
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should be a designated parent liaison person to deal with parents.</li> </ul>	There is! Reha and Verna liaise with parents.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There tends to be a lack of communication between Office Staff and teachers, sometimes messages get lost.</li> </ul>	Message get lost occasionally. We're going to think about how to improve this.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff at Reception are reluctant to leave the area and carry out parent requests (e.g. to go to classrooms), regularly citing being short-staffed as the reason.</li> </ul>	We agree. We're going to look at the system for this.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents' noticeboard to be a bit more visible.</li> </ul>	We have two noticeboards for parents. One is outside the lobby and one is inside the lobby area.

<b>Additional support for children and families</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Mentors: Verna and Reha are always available to discuss additional support. Friendly and approachable.</li> <li>• Pru, Jill, Olly and Teachers are amazing, again approachable, and available to discuss additional support.</li> <li>• Olly available every morning greeting at the gate.</li> <li>• Teacher is available at the end of the day for conversations with parents.</li> <li>• Parents' evenings.</li> <li>• Verna and Reha are proactive and are like stepping stones to other things.</li> <li>• Good additional support.</li> <li>• One to one support is great.</li> <li>• Extra support is given to children falling behind.</li> <li>• There is EAL support.</li> <li>• The website is useful for additional support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Olly could be available at the breakfast club for working parents as they do not get to see him.</li> </ul>	<p>Good idea!</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should be additional support to families that have to go abroad example having a family in Australia and children having to miss a week off school, could there be school work that they take with them or online education so they don't miss any school work or receive an absent in the register. As the online teaching would count as attending.</li> </ul>	<p>Parents should not take their children on holiday during term time.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents would like to know what additional support is available at the school</li> </ul>	<p>If your child is not making good progress, they may receive additional support from an adult in school. If they are still not making good progress, we might request help from external agency such as a Speech and Language Assessment.</p> <p>If your child is struggling with a social or emotional problem, we have extensive pastoral provision to offer support.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A workshop for parents to explain what services are available in the school and the local community - This information could be part of an induction for parents new to the school.</li> </ul>	<p>Good idea – we could run a Family Friday on this.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult to get an appointment with SENCo.</li> </ul>	<p>If you are concerned about your child's progress, please arrange to talk to your child's teacher. They will then ask Liz, the SENCo, to make a time with you if it is necessary.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maths support would be welcome.</li> </ul>	<p>We run several Maths Family Fridays each year.</p>

<b>Out of hours learning – Club and activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knitting, football and French are excellent clubs.</li> <li>• Clubs have increased, more opportunities for the children to attend.</li> <li>• A wide range of clubs.</li> <li>• Breakfast and after school clubs are great.</li> <li>• Plenty of clubs available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More information to be made available to parents and children, how it works and who is allowed to attend the clubs.</li> </ul>	<p>Our aim is for all children in Yrs 3 – 6 to attend 3 clubs, for half a term each, per year. We track the children who have attended clubs to make sure everyone gets a chance.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why do the clubs start from year 2, why not year one?</li> </ul>	<p>Our aim is for our clubs to be good quality and free. We don't receive any funding for clubs. In order to achieve this aim we can only run clubs for children from Yr 2 upwards.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help parents who can't afford the clubs, to help with finance.</li> </ul>	<p>All clubs are free!</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It seems that P.E. is secondary in the school; there should be more activities in the playground. New equipment to be bought to improve playgroup facilities.</li> </ul>	<p>All children have two sports lessons each week. We also run several sports clubs each week. We have our own sports coach too.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School hours should increase to increase time for activities after-school.</li> </ul>	<p>We can't increase the school hours.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tennis or any physical activities should be on offer. Parkour is a fun physical activity.</li> </ul>	<p>They are! We currently run 3 football clubs, a hockey club and a gymnastics club. We have recently run dance, parkour, archery and basketball clubs.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trampolining is a great activity to add to the school list to buy for the children. Friends of Columbia can help fundraise for this.</li> </ul>	<p>Good idea but we're not sure where it would live!</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents should get the clubs' list first and have a chance to discuss the clubs with their children before signing up otherwise some children say no to clubs without understanding their benefits with the family.</li> </ul>	<p>We will let parents know what clubs are coming up before we ask the children to sign up.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There need to be some workshops where children can compete and win at certain things as this happens in sport and will happen at secondary level. They need to learn about competition.</li> </ul>	<p>Children take part in competitions as part of their PE lessons.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working parents are unable to attend assembly when they are invited to see their child sing or act, the child gets disappointed so teachers need to explain to the children that it does not matter their parents are not there, and maybe to have an evening assembly for working parents to see their children.</li> </ul>	<p>We give parents as much notice as possible as we understand it is difficult for working parents to attend assemblies during the day. We are unable to have evening assemblies as we cannot insist that children stay after school.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More curriculum-based clubs e.g. booster clubs.</li> </ul>	<p>We have booster clubs for Yr 6.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents feel that more vocal children get allocated places – Parents would like children to take turns attending clubs and club registration letters sent home</li> </ul>	<p>We keep a record of which clubs each child attends to make sure it is fair. If we notice a child hasn't attended a club, we ask them what sort of club they would like to attend.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More variety and more of them so that a larger number can get involved.</li> </ul>	<p>We do not receive any funding for clubs so we run as many as we can afford and staff.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More language clubs please and for longer periods so that the children can progress e.g. French level 1, 2,3</li> </ul>	<p>We currently run two French clubs and a BSL club.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are lots of clubs but would like to see more children's performances being organised and parents to be invited to come along</li> </ul>	<p>Good idea!</p>

<b>Getting involved in school life</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteering in the school with reading and on trips. It's easy to be involved.</li> <li>• Joining Friends of Columbia to help with fundraising for the school.</li> <li>• Parent reading really enjoyable.</li> <li>• Coffee Mornings are a really useful way of updating parents and sharing information.</li> <li>• Volunteering in school is always open and a great idea.</li> <li>• Friends of Columbia.</li> <li>• Meeting/coffee morning once a month.</li> <li>• Family Fridays (different appropriate and informative topics are covered for parents).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask parents to volunteer.</li> </ul>	We do.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertise and more information on getting involved. It's hard relying on other parents as their level of commitment to help and support the school is limited. They need encouragement.</li> </ul>	At the start of the year, we run an information session on how parents can get involved.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coffee Mornings to take place every week/fortnightly (New parents could be invited to find out more about the school) – Need to think of ways of doing this (e.g. Parent volunteers?).</li> </ul>	We used to have coffee morning every week and not that many parents attended. It seems to work better running once a month/half term.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent Voice session to be promoted better (e.g. as a separate letter/flyer sent to parents) as attending this is crucial.</li> </ul>	We advertise Parent Voice in our half termly newsletter and send a separate reminder at the start of the week in which it is taking place.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friends of Columbia to introduce themselves at a Coffee Morning.</li> </ul>	Good idea!
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working parents cannot access daytime activities.</li> </ul>	We try to give as much notice as possible so parents can plan in advance.

<b>Home - school communication / Partnership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newsletter is brilliant.</li> <li>• Text messaging service useful.</li> <li>• Reception area is a welcoming space and contains a lot of information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website needs to be improved, it is unclear where information is laid out and available for parents, parents said they check tower hamlets website for term-dates and holidays.</li> </ul>	<p>We're running a Parent Forum to explain the website and get ideas from parents about how to improve it.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Texting and PDF are brilliant.</li> <li>• Newsletter is informative.</li> <li>• Reminders.</li> <li>• Front desk staff are helpful and are great on the telephone with information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was also a problem about which children got the flu jab, no school staff seemed to have confirmation whether the child had a flu jab although the class did have the jab but the child said they didn't. There needs to be a record to confirm this in the class room.</li> </ul>	<p>The admin team collected the children from their classes but had to return the consent forms to the nurses administering the flu vaccine. The vaccine was a nasal spray rather than an injection.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Olly is outstanding! He knows all the children's names and is always approachable.</li> <li>• Emails/newsletters/website.</li> <li>• Overview sheet for topics being covered at beginning of term and how parents can support at home.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receiving one text works but not 4 texts in one day, so to be mindful of how many texts the school is sending out unless they are very important.</li> </ul>	<p>Thank you for the feedback.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Received call when child had hurt themselves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New parents to the school to be better informed about school procedures</li> </ul>	<p>We are thinking about how to improve the meetings at the start of the year so new parents are better informed.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twitter feeds with pictures great.</li> <li>• Noticeboard is good.</li> <li>• Assemblies great.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talking to the teachers, we need more than one half termly meeting</li> </ul>	<p>If you are concerned about your child's progress, please make an extra time with the teacher.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incident slips need to be more detailed</li> </ul>	<p>We review this regularly. If you would like more information, please ask your child's teacher.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some parents are not getting the incident slips</li></ul>	Please let one of the Senior Leaders know if you think you should have received a slip and haven't and we will follow it up.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attending show and tell assemblies would be good if it's your child</li></ul>	Unfortunately we don't have enough space for parents in show and tell assemblies.

<b>Supporting children's learning and development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops to help parents support their children in maths.</li> <li>• Phonics workshops very useful.</li> <li>• Teachers providing information to parents on how they can support their child's learning.</li> <li>• Being able to talk to Verna or Reha about their child's needs.</li> <li>• Mindfulness introduced into the classroom.</li> <li>• Homework IS USEFUL.</li> <li>• Family Fridays excellent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The website needs to be made clear and updated.</li> </ul>	<p>The website is updated weekly. We are running a Parent Forum this half term so parents can give their feedback about how it could be better.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A golden time certificate was given to a child when they were not even in school!</li> </ul>	<p>Whoops – that shouldn't have happened!</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More/regular sessions on e-safety for parents</li> </ul>	<p>We run one or two sessions a year on e-safety.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a child has fallen behind due to taking time off school (e.g. illness/operation), parents feel that there is a lack of information on how parents can deal with this.</li> </ul>	<p>Please make an appointment with your child's class teacher if you have concerns about their progress.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of information to parents about what support children are receiving when struggling (e.g. speech and language); some parents feel that they are 'fobbed off' by the school and their queries are not fully dealt with.</li> </ul>	<p>Please let Olly know if you feel your concerns are not being dealt with properly.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There need to be sessions on bullying for both parents and children.</li> </ul>	<p>We talk to the children regularly about bullying and also run assemblies about this. The school anti-bullying policy is on the school website.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal chats with teachers would be really helpful.</li> </ul>	<p>Unfortunately it's difficult to arrange a time when teachers and parents can talk informally but if you have a concern, please talk to your child's class teacher.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School should rely more on parents to support with school.</li> </ul>	<p>Please let Olly know if you have ideas about how parents can help.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on understanding maths methods.</li> </ul>	<p>There are films on our vimeo site <a href="https://vimeo.com/columbiaschool">vimeo.com/columbiaschool</a> which show which methods we use in maths.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reading diary would be useful.</li> </ul>	<p>The leadership team have discussed how this would work and we don't think there will be a long term benefit to the children.</p>

<b>The school building and environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the mornings lining up outside in the playground, this should happen to all year groups.</li> <li>• The school itself is spacious and everyone friendly.</li> <li>• The school is very warm and welcoming. My child loves going to school.</li> <li>• Playground equipment.</li> <li>• The way the school is decorated (colourful).</li> <li>• Playground is amazing.</li> <li>• Classrooms are bright and well resourced.</li> <li>• Welcoming.</li> <li>• Planting looks lovely.</li> <li>• The facilities in the early years are good.</li> <li>• Very welcoming, cosy and comfortable.</li> <li>• Children's art work is displayed beautifully.</li> <li>• The school is very clean.</li> <li>• Playground is great.</li> <li>• The garden patch is excellent.</li> <li>• There is more greenery.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year one drop-offs are very dangerous in the mornings as parents and children are struggling to get up the stairs in the mornings. The stairs are too narrow and dangerous.</li> </ul>	<p>We agree that the stairs are crowded but we think this is a better option than dropping the children in the playground.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have two children, parents are having to leave one child down stairs while they drop off their other child upstairs, why can't the teacher wait downstairs for the children and take them up the stairs all together.</li> </ul>	<p>The playground is very busy so we think it is better for Yr 1 children to be dropped off and picked up from their class. Year 1 children can be dropped off from 8.55.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your child is late there should be a system where the receptionist or another member of staff should take the child to class and not the parent.</li> </ul>	<p>We agree. If children are late, they should not be taken up by their parents.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is security monitored by the school, e.g. where the parents are inside the school building?</li> </ul>	<p>The school is only open to parents at the start and end of the day. If parents enter a part of the building they are not supposed to they will be challenged. Lots of the school building is only accessible through our access control system.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buggies and babies going up to drop off and collect from year 1 is too difficult and causes a lot of stress. Suggestion was that all</li> </ul>	<p>The playground is very busy so we think it is better for Yr 1 children to be dropped off and picked up from their class.</p>	

		children were dropped off and collected in the playground rather than at classes.	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playground is small.</li> </ul>	We agree! We try to make the best use of the space but unfortunately we can't make it any bigger.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The buildings are overheated.</li> </ul>	We monitor the temperature of the building carefully. Unfortunately because of the size and age of the building it is sometimes difficult to get the temperature spot on.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tree climbing frame should be taken out of the playground.</li> </ul>	The children love this climbing frame and it helps them develop upper-body strength and take risks. It is carefully monitored at all times.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A bridge or a tunnel would be great to get to the park.</li> </ul>	We agree!
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A zebra crossing would be good.</li> </ul>	We have raised this matter with the council.

<b>School meals / breakfast clubs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The children report back to their parents how much they have enjoyed their school dinners.</li> <li>• The breakfast club provides excellent food for breakfast.</li> <li>• School meals are good.</li> <li>• Great value for money.</li> <li>• Compliments to the chef.</li> <li>• Good to know the children are fed well.</li> <li>• Love the menu displayed.</li> <li>• Today's menu is up on board daily.</li> <li>• Balanced diet.</li> <li>• Free school meals are great!</li> <li>• Children enjoy the breakfast club.</li> <li>• After breakfast club, children are escorted to their classrooms.</li> <li>• Healthy food is great.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop cake and chocolates being brought into the school for birthdays as it's too much sugar for the children, a healthy option needs to be enforced, however not all parents agreed on this.</li> </ul>	The children no longer have cake at lunchtime so we think it is fine for them to occasionally have a chocolate.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakfast club should start at 7.30am as having that extra 15minutes to get into work would benefit getting on the train on time and just missing the rush hour.</li> </ul>	We start breakfast club at 7.45 for this reason (It used to start at 8.10).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children in the early years eat lunch very early and get hungry later in the day – More filling snacks.</li> </ul>	Good point. We can look into providing healthy snacks throughout the afternoon.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School lunches have run out in the past and also children need to be more encouraged to choose from all options available rather than take their favourites.</li> </ul>	We're monitoring the school lunches to check all choices don't run out and it seems to have improved recently. We ensure children choose a balanced plate of food.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seconds need to be available to children who are still hungry.</li> </ul>	There is additional bread, fruit and salad on offer if children are still hungry. Sometimes seconds are available.

<b>Developing links with the local community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Texts are sent home regarding events.</li> <li>• Community information available in Reception area.</li> <li>• Local community centre activities are shared with parents.</li> <li>• Really love the way the school celebrate different cultures and faiths in the school.</li> <li>• Love the diversity in the school.</li> <li>• Suggest trips in the Newsletter.</li> <li>• Trip to Museum of London was great.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to build links with the banks as to see if they could donate or grant us new equipment for the school or any other freebies.</li> </ul>	<p>We agree. Please let the school know if you have any contacts.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school should have an information board similar to that in Reception in the playground where children are dropped off and collected by parents.</li> </ul>	<p>We don't have the space for an additional board in the playground.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sundial centre and intergenerational activities.</li> </ul>	<p>Good idea. We'll think about this.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More support for food banks. collecting, volunteering and making it something the school does on a regular basis.</li> </ul>	<p>Good idea. We'll think about how to do this.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close off the road outside the school for the start and end of the day.</li> </ul>	<p>The council are looking at ways to improve traffic in the local area.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information from the council about activities and clubs would be useful.</li> </ul>	<p>We display this on the noticeboard in the lobby.</p>

<p><b>Is there anything else you would like to tell us about?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Fridays have some interesting topics.</li> <li>• The winter fair was great fun.</li> <li>• The Head teacher is really pro-active with regards to dealing with issues; issues usually get resolved very quickly if he is involved.</li> <li>• Caring approach in the nursery.</li> <li>• Love nature club.</li> <li>• Thank you to the teachers for doing a good job.</li> <li>• Not having uniform is great. Creates individuality and diversity.</li> <li>• The school has good values for example book swap activities- learning about sharing!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication via email would be better than text for some parents.</li> </ul>	<p>We send emails and texts. Please give the office your email address and we can add you to our list.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda and expected times for family Fridays would make it easier to plan which to attend.</li> </ul>	<p>Family Fridays are typically 9-10 and the content is shared with parents before the holiday for the following half term.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An hour a week per class with bookable slots for parents to meet teachers would make it easier to stay in touch about the children’s learning.</li> </ul>	<p>Unfortunately, the teachers are not able to be away from their class for an hour.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents need to be made aware of Friends of Columbia and how they fund-raise for school books, lap-tops, musical instruments, school trips, books and many more.</li> </ul>	<p>At the start of the year, we run a Family Friday. In this meeting we inform parents about the Friends of Columbia. We also include information in the school newsletter.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no PTA in the school, if a teacher were to join Friends of Columbia it would help support the parents in the fund-raising.</li> </ul>	<p>At the moment it seems to work well without a teacher on the committee. Olly liaises regularly with the chair, treasurer and secretary about upcoming events.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school is in a fantastic location why don’t we make use of it especially on a Sunday when the market is busy by having events to help fund-raise for the school.</li> </ul>	<p>The school is part of a Private Finance Initiative and as such we are not able to open the schools grounds at the weekend.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school should be open in the evening like other schools like once month to have a quiz night or an exercise class for parents. This is another idea to raise money for the school.</li> </ul>	<p>Olly has met the Friends of Columbia to discuss different fund raising opportunities.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why can't the classes be colour coded to compete with each other?</li> </ul>	<p>The Governors are currently discussing competition at Columbia and thinking about how we can improve this aspect of the school.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some parents would like a school uniform to be introduced – A consultation on this should take place</li> </ul>	<p>School uniforms have no impact on pupil attainment and achievement so it is not a change we are thinking about implementing.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some staff are not as welcoming/friendly as hoped</li> </ul>	<p>Please speak to Olly if you have specific concerns.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of knowledge of the Governing Body (e.g. Who's who) – They should have a higher profile amongst parents</li> </ul>	<p>We have started to include a section on the back of the school newsletter where we let parents know how governors have been involved in school each half term.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christmas traditional songs were not used at the concert at Christmas and this was very disappointing for a lot of the parents.</li> </ul>	<p>In our Winter Assembly we sing and perform a mix of Christmas songs and songs relating to our topic. Friends of Columbia organise a Christmas Sing-a-long where parents can come and sing traditional Christmas carols.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can have the option of having an item of clothing which has school logo so easier to identify while on school trip.</li> </ul>	<p>The children wear high-vis bands when they are on trips.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School to give clearer guidelines to parents on what clothes can be worn (labelled/expensive to be avoided).</li></ul>	Good idea! We have written some clear guidelines which we can share with parents at the start of the year.
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