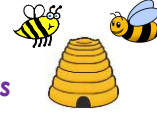




# Ab Kettleby Primary School



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Working in partnership: Ab Kettleby and Somerby Primary Schools

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021

## Autumn Term Round Up!

Dear parents and carers,

This term has flown by and I feel so privileged to be part of such a great team. Children, parents and staff have made me feel really welcome and it feels like I have been here forever! (In a good way!)

The best part of my job is seeing the children happy and learning. I have had a number of favourite moments this term - giving certificates out at the end of the week; introducing and naming the chickens; listening to children sing/perform; hearing positive comments from the community when they have been out on trips - all makes the job worthwhile.

As a team, our first focus at the beginning of the Autumn Term was to implement the Behaviour Culture. Setting routines and clear expectations across the school was important to ensure children are treated the same, where ever they are in school and whoever is teaching them. Teachers are entitled to non-contact time to plan, to develop subject leadership or to enhance their own personal development and as a result there are some weeks where supply is brought in. Children naturally try to push boundaries and a different face with different rules and expectations can cause anxiety in children and then they won't learn. Ensuring all of us follow the same rules and the same routines and expectations, helps to reduce anxiety and helps children to settle into learning quicker. We have seen an improvement in overall behaviour and our children continue to make us proud on a daily basis, with their manners and positive behaviour towards one another.

The next focus for us as a team, was to develop the curriculum: making sure each subject is progressive from EYFS to Y6; making sure our plan for the subject is fun and engaging and children experience wider opportunities, for example visitors or trips, to help bring the subject to life and inspire them to want to learn more. This is ongoing work and we are working collaboratively with subject specialists from John Ferneley to help us improve this further.

I have high expectation and believe we shouldn't put a ceiling on children's learning. I introduced the Rosenshine's Principles to staff which we work on during our staff meetings to improve how we teach and improve the learning experiences of the children. This again, is ongoing work.

Wellbeing is probably the most important part of my job. I need to look after the wellbeing of staff and children. We all work better and are happier in school if our emotional needs are met and addressed. We place a lot of emphasis on wellbeing during the week: teaching children how to identify changes in feelings; how to manage these; how to keep physically and mentally healthy and knowing who children can talk to at any time if they are feeling unhappy. Mrs Gent is ELSA trained (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) who helps support the emotional needs of our children.



Mrs Fryer (SENCO) works with our teachers to help identify further support or recommend strategies to use, which we feel children would benefit from. As I said too, staff wellbeing is just as important as happy staff equals happy children!

From Spring, we are introducing “Feel Good Friday” where we will learn about mindfulness and the importance of learning how to relax our body and mind to help reduce stress.

We have lots of plans to continue to move the school forward, including improving delivery of the arts, over the coming months/terms and are very excited to start to see our hard work pay off.

## FOAKS

The support FOAKS have given us as a school this term has been incredible, and it has been great to work with such a dedicated team of parents. FOAKS have helped to organise a number of events such as, Back to School and Halloween Discos; the weekly cake sale (which is very popular and the standard of cake each week would easily win Bake Off!); Breakfast with Santa and many more. As a result of all this they have raised a vast amount of money, just in one term, and because of this FOAKS been able to fund a number of things to help benefit the children in our school, for example they pay for buses for trips in order to keep the overall cost down for all families. We also asked if FOAKS could buy us some digital cameras to help support our Computing Curriculum, which they have agreed! Brilliant! I would like to say a heartfelt thanks to all parents who have contributed their time or money to FOAKS to help fundraise such an amazing amount of money. We really appreciate it and it is fabulous to see the children benefitting from this.



## Parent Survey

Thank you to parents who have completed the recent Parent Survey. It is a great way to gain feedback as to what is working well and what needs to be improved. Please however, don't wait for this survey or parent forums to air your concerns. I have an open-door policy and would gladly pop the kettle on and have a chat about any issues, concerns or even ideas you may have to improve the school. An outstanding school needs teamwork: parents, children and staff working together to improve the educational experiences of the children is important to me.

In summary, 100% of parents stated their children feel safe in school; 90% of parents feel behaviour is good or better, with happy and polite children; 90% feel we have high expectations and 90% feel any concerns raised have been dealt with promptly and properly.

76% of parents feel communication is good or better. There are a small number of parents who feel communication is confusing. To clarify, Dojo is used for immediate messages and to keep you up to date with activities in class on a day-to-day basis. Any whole school messages or important messages will go out via Email. However, I will usually pop a note on both Dojo and Email if it is urgent to ensure as many parents as possible read it.

Please remember also, that you can come and chat to us at the beginning or end of the day, or ring us/Dojo us to make a face to face appointment with your class teacher. We really want to talk to you and don't want you to worry at any point about any aspect of your child's school life.

**What do we do well?** Parent comments suggest we provide a caring, family feel environment where we look after the welfare and needs of children, with a strong sense of community. We offer children a wide range of activities during the school day and the relationship between teachers and staff are good.

**What can we do to improve?** There were a number of parents wanting face to face parents' evenings again, which will endeavour to do in the Spring Term, covid allowing. Again, covid allowing, we will be offering open mornings in the Spring Term for parents to come in and see a typical day in school. A small number of parents didn't seem to know what was being taught in their child's classroom, so to clarify, a copy of your child's topic plan is posted on Dojo and emailed out to parents at the beginning of each term and can also be found on our website and remember Dojo shares activities in class on a regular basis. Staff retention is high on the agenda and I am working hard to settle this down to make sure we have the right teachers in the right roles.



### Spring Dates 2022

Spring dates have been planned and attached with this newsletter. These are still subject to Covid Government Guidance and could be affected if local rates rise. There are still some dates to be confirmed, such as class trips or visitors but as soon as we know more will keep you updated. Letters with more detail about each event will be sent out nearer the time. Please note, the first date you may be interested in is the Open Morning of 11<sup>th</sup> January.

### The Wider Community

It has been great to reconnect with the wider community, including the Church, local playgroups and support from outside sporting experts, and we will continue to build on and expand these relationships.

### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

With the big day within reach, I would like to thank you all for your support over this term and thank you for making me feel so welcome. I am ready for a couple of weeks rest to be honest, but I am really looking forward to continuing to move the school forward over 2022.

Have a lovely Christmas and wishing you all a safe, happy and healthy 2022.

Andrea Brown  
Headteacher

