



Ab Kettleby Primary School



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Working in partnership: Ab Kettleby and Somerby Primary Schools

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Spring Term Round Up!

Dear parents and carers,

I think this is the fastest Spring Term yet! It has been great to see children enjoy their learning: The Hive have gone back to the Egyptian times; Honey Bees have been fighting the Vikings then ventured into the Rainforest and Bumble Bees have been looking at our wonderful weather and watching dinosaur eggs hatch!

Post Ofsted Actions

I am sure you have all read the awful news about the death of Headteacher Ruth Perry, following her Ofsted report. No job should affect your personal life in such a way to want to end your life, but it is so hard not to take Ofsted feedback, or in fact any feedback about our lovely school, personally as we all work incredibly hard to improve the lives of the children we teach and to improve the experiences they have in our school. We don't always get it right, but it isn't due to the lack of trying.

Curriculum - next steps

Our Subject Leaders are now working to develop Knowledge Organisers for each of their subjects. The Organisers will specify exactly what skills, knowledge and vocabulary the children will learn during a specific term. Teachers will then be able to use these organisers as assessment tools to assess for progress within the Foundation Subjects such as music, history, geography etc.

Tolerance

We continue our work with tolerance during our PSHE lessons, assemblies and during discussions when compelling our reflection forms. The School Council will be conducting their next study on tolerance across our school in the Summer Term.

Behaviour Boosts

During the first week of each half term, we focus on our Behaviour Boost. This helps unpick certain behaviours that need refining! Our Boost for the beginning of the Summer term will be:

“What does an engaged learner look like?”

Behaviours we are looking for:

- We will have a particular focus on the “A” of SLANT - Ask and Answer questions - children will be encouraged to answer questions to help consolidate their learning and in addition to this, encouraged to think of questions to ask to help deepen learning. Opportunities will be given throughout the day to answer any questions children have about the world they live in.



Behaviours which need refining:

- Non - verbal body language - we have a number of children who use non-verbal body language such as eye rolling, shrugging of shoulders or making eye contact with other children to disturb learning, and these are the behaviours we would prefer not to see. This will be our focus during the Summer Term.

Lunchtimes

Children in the Hive spent time reflecting on lunchtime behaviours, realising that lunchtimes were usually the time that arguments start. Lots of reasons were causing this: children are still learning how to play, how to play together, how to share, how to be tolerant and inclusive. It is also hard to find space to play the games they want to play while avoiding hurting our youngest children. As a result of their reflections, they redesigned lunchtimes to include games, activities and zones. They have done an amazing job and we are so proud of them - most children now say lunchtimes have improved as a result.

Stay and Play Sessions - EYFS

During the end of the autumn term and at the beginning of the spring term we organised Stay and Play sessions for potential new children who are due to start school in September. They have been really popular and a great way for us to show off our lovely school. We have booked more Stay and Play Sessions for the new academic year:

- Tuesday 26th September 2023
- Tuesday 7th November 2023
- Wednesday 10th January 2024

We would be grateful if you could share these dates with anyone you know who may be looking for a school for children starting in August 2024.

Staffing

As you know, Mrs Fryer's baby has a number of health issues to deal with over the coming months and years, therefore she has made the difficult decision to reduce her working hours. We are delighted to be able to accommodate her request but she will be returning to Somerby Primary School after Easter, rather than Ab Kettleby. Mrs Fryer will also be used to cover classes in the event of sickness or courses, so I am sure you will still see her in and around our school over the coming months. Mrs Fryer's SENCO role will continue to be Mrs Emma French, SENCO at The Grove.

Mrs Morris sadly leaves us in the Summer Term too to start her maternity leave. If she manages to get through the Easter Holidays without any surprise deliveries, we will see her for her final week after Easter and she will leave on Friday 21st April. Mrs Dickson and Mrs Priestley will continue to teach children in the Hive until the Summer and I will announce our new Lead Teacher and Hive class teacher in the Summer term.

Sport

What a spring term of sporting experiences! Gymnastics, Orienteering, Sportsability, Football, Cross Country, Futsal, swimming gala, bowls as well as their daily boost!

Thank you to Mrs Brown (sporty) who organises such amazing opportunities for our children, and to Mrs Bedford who continues to support our children and Mrs Brown!

FOAKS

Our amazing team of FOAKS parents have achieved their target for our outdoor classroom and I am delighted that work will start over the Easter Holiday! I can't believe we will actually be able to use it in the Summer Term. TESCO community tokens end this week and the money we win from that will help us to clear out the pond area as our next focus.

Summer Dates 2023

Summer dates have been planned and were sent out last week. Letters with more detail about each event will be sent out nearer the time.

On a final note, Mr Dash gets married on Saturday! On behalf of all of us at Ab Kettleby, we wish him a very special day and hope the sun shines for him.

So, as the end of the spring term comes to a close, I would like to wish all our staff, children and families a very happy Easter and I look forward to welcoming our children back for our summer term.

Andrea Brown
Headteacher