



# Ab Kettleby Primary School



Working in partnership: Ab Kettleby and Somerby Primary Schools

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## Spring Term Round Up!

Dear parents and carers,

This is probably the quickest term so far! It has been a real pleasure to watch our children enjoy their learning: The Hive have gone back to the Roman times; Honey Bees have become artists and Bumble Bees have been enjoying their Forest School learning.

### Curriculum - next steps

We have continued to work hard behind the scenes to continue to develop our curriculum. Mr Dash has been working alongside Miss Miller (Year 2/Year 3 teacher at Somerby Primary School) to align some of their topics. This work will continue over the coming months so they can share topics, share ideas and resources and share some joint trips too. This year, Miss Digioia and children in the Hive have enjoyed sharing all of their topics with Somerby children in Y456 and have already seen many benefits of this. It also helps us to moderate between the two schools to ensure high expectations are being met across all children. Developing the curriculum is an ongoing process as we reflect each term on the learning and readjust as and when necessary to ensure children build on the key skills and knowledge, learning more and remembering more.

### Mental Health

As you know, mental health remains high on our agenda. Supporting children to notice changes in their moods and notice how this makes them feel is important. So many every day events can change a child's mood: parents arguing; feeling unwell; bereavement; transition to new class or new school; overhearing adult worries, to name but a few! We have many ways of supporting our children and share strategies with them to help keep mentally healthy. The most basic of strategies are shared during our Feel Good Friday. This may be as simple as listening to calming music, drawing, sharing a book or game with a friend or just spending time noticing our breathing. If we feel a child needs a bit more support, we refer them to Mrs Gent and would give them a number of ELSA sessions (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant). The next stage may be to give children some time with Miss Charlton who works with children across the Trust as a Wellbeing Practitioner, basing her work around Yoga. Following this, we have a range of outside agencies we can refer children and families too for further support if needed.

This term we are working with RELATE who have given children further support on how to improve their emotional resilience, including the early warning signs of anxiety, mindfulness, coping strategies & resources. It is so important families take time to learn these strategies alongside their child and encourage using what they have learnt in times of stress.



Part of Mowbray Education Trust

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Children First



When children are low or are overwhelmed it can be hard to know how to cope and distracting yourself can help you feel better. Just doing one positive thing every day, can help their mood.

Here is an example of a strategy - Mood Boost Bingo. Tick off as you do one of these activities and give yourself a reward once you complete a line or the full set.

If you need further support in this area please come and speak to me.

### Behaviour Boosts

As you are aware, at the beginning of each half term we refocus on our behaviour, celebrating the positive behaviours we are proud of and refining those behaviours we need to improve on. Our Behaviour Boost for the beginning of the summer term will be showing respect to all and showing pride in ourselves and our environment. The focus will be on, lining up, walking into school and listening to instructions.

### Uniform

On the note of taking pride in our school and ourselves, just a gentle reminder of our school uniform policy. We are getting a few “anomalies” creeping in again, including holiday bracelets; hair accessories; socks and logo trainers on non-PE days.

As a reminder, the link to our uniform can be found here:

<https://www.abkettleby.org/page/?title=School+Uniform&pid=65>

### Staffing

Many of you may know Mrs Smith, our Midday Supervisor. Mrs Smith lives in the village and her (now adult) children attended the school many years ago. She has been a midday supervisor with us for a number of years as well as volunteering for sporting events, swimming and helping Mrs Sporty Brown from time to time at the Playgroup. As from Easter, she is leaving us to spend more time at home with her family, horses and continue her love for skiing holidays! As she lives just across the road, I am sure we will all still see her around!

### FOAKS

FOAKS are in the throws of planning many more events for the Summer Term for our children to enjoy. These events are so important to us as a school, as it helps to raise money for non-curriculum items that our school budget simply cannot afford. As you know, we have benefited hugely from FOAKS financially, for example our lovely outdoor classroom and our newly roofed EYFS playground would not have been possible without them and the generosity of our families. The next project on our wish list is to redevelop the library area to create a warm and inviting place for all children to share their love of books - we will keep you updated with our progress! Thank you to all our families who support these events - every penny counts - and of course to our FOAKS team who drive this for us!

### Ab Kettleby 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

There is a saying “you don’t know what you don’t know” and I didn’t know Ab Kettleby School reached its 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the 2022/2023 academic year! Once we knew this, we simply couldn’t let the occasion go without marking it!

Mrs Gent has trawled through boxes of memorabilia and has found some fascinating photos and articles. On the afternoon of Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024 we would like to invite current and past families, pupils, staff and anyone else connected to our school to join us to celebrate this milestone. The afternoon will be supported by FOAKS who will offer refreshments and it will give our alumni, families and staff, past and present, time to look through the memorabilia and share stories from the past. Please share this date and let us know if you are able to attend.

### **New Starters 2024**

In April, we will find out the families who will be joining our EYFS team in the autumn term. As soon as we have this information, we will be in touch with dates to ease the transition for them.

### **Parent Forum**

Parent voice is so important for a school. Parents are key partners in children's education and your support and involvement matters. In fact, by parents being more involved they are actively contributing to improved outcomes for young people, with evidence highlighting that parental involvement adds two to three years to a child's education. With this in mind, we have previously held Parent Forum Meetings alongside collating views of parents via Microsoft Forms. These are not usually well attended, despite holding them at different times of the day therefore as a Trust, we are looking at how we can gain parent voice more effectively. Until then, I will cancel the Summer Term meeting and will introduce a the new way of collating Pupil Voice in the Autumn Term.

### **Summer Dates 2024**

The summer is packed with lovely events for our children and families to enjoy. I have attached an updated Summer Term Planner for your information. This will also be updated on WEDCUC and monthly reminders will continue to come out with further information about each event nearer the time.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support and I wish you very happy Easter. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024, for the start of the Summer Term!

Mrs Brown  
Headteacher

