



# 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,

We have had a fabulous spring term and I am amazed at just how fast it has gone. The children have been a real pleasure to be around.

I watch the older children with pride as they support our youngest members of the school. At lunchtimes they help our youngest cut up their food; make sure they have a drink; help clear up and simply engage them in conversation. At breaktimes they play together and watch out for each other. Ab Kettleby Primary School really is a special place for children learn and develop as an individual.

### Behaviour Boosts

During the first week of each half term, we focus on our Behaviour Boost. The boost in January was self-regulation when no one is watching. This is the hardest part of our day! It is easy to behave well when others are around or when teachers are watching but it easy to slip into bad habits when we are on our own: no-one to stop us running to the toilet, scribbling on a book or being unkind to someone. During the Behaviour Boost week, we spend a great deal of time discussing these situations and their impact. Whenever a child chooses not to following the school rules, we always go back to this - what impact has your behaviour had on others and what better choice should have been made?

The Behaviour Boost after February half term concentrated on the “A” of SLANT: to ask questions. We want children to be inquisitive about the world they live in and we wanted to encourage them to ask questions to deepen their understanding. When children read a book they may come across a word they have never heard of or at the start a new topic we don't just want them to take in the facts given to them by the teacher - we want them to ask more questions! “What does that word mean?”, “Why did the Romans do that?” etc. Each classroom now has a “Question Board” and children can write their question on the board at any point in the day. Teachers then make time to discuss these questions and find out the answers together.

### Mental Health

Mental health continues to be a focus for us at Ab Kettleby. Helping children deal with their emotions is a daily routine but we are also teaching children ways of keeping a healthy mind. Each Friday afternoon we cover a range of activities to promote mindfulness - yoga, mindful breathing, mindful colouring or simply go and lie down and watch the clouds up above us. We also spent time discussing sentence starters children could use if they see children struggling e.g. “I see you don't seem your usual self, can I help you?”.



## 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. Miss Bray and Mrs Gent were instrumental in advertising these events on social media and flyers and as a result we have been notified that 10 sets of parents have chosen Ab Kettley as 1<sup>st</sup> choice school for their child. We are delighted and cannot wait to welcome our new starters in August.

## Mrs Fryer

You may have noticed Mrs Fryer (SENCO) is expecting (she is struggling to hide the bump now!) and will be leaving on maternity leave at the end of the academic year. We have been busy interviewing to find a suitable replacement and are delighted to be welcoming Miss Quail who will take over the Lead Teacher role and full-time teacher of Class 3 from August. Miss Quail has been a teacher for 7 years, currently teaching Year 5 and 6, and her experience includes teaching in the UK and in Dubai. Parents and children will get an opportunity to meet Miss Quail in the coming months.

Mrs Fryer's SENCO role will be supported for the year by a SENCO at The Grove and Mrs Fryer will be working over the summer term to ensure a smooth handover is in place. Mrs Fryer is not disappearing and will still be supporting us from a distance!

## Eco Warriors

Our Eco Warriors are gathering momentum and now keep us all up to date with their work during our weekly Celebration Assemblies. They have spent time gathering rubbish from the playground and highlighting the damage this can do to wildlife; they have increased recycling across the school; have requested new compost bins and even asked if we can turn off the electric for an hour a week to save money! Well done team - clearly a passionate group of warriors!

## Sport

What a term of sporting successes! Success was seen at the Keysteps Gymnastics Competition at Little Springers Gymnastics Club where Y1/2 and Y3/4 went on to represent Melton and Belvoir in Oakham on 30<sup>th</sup> March, coming a credible 4<sup>th</sup> place overall. We have such talented gymnasts and I will watch with pride the Olympics 2030!

We are also representing Melton & Belvoir in KS2 Sportsability at the Active Together Summer Festival at Uppingham on Fri 24 Jun 2022.

Thank you to Mrs Brown (sporty) who organises such amazing opportunities for our children, and tirelessly cheers them all on!

## Ukraine

Of course, this term has been over shadowed by the atrocity that we have seen unfold in Ukraine. This has raised lots of questions and uncertainty from the children. We try our best to answer these and check in regularly with them. Thanks go to all parents who donated so many amazing items: clothes, first aid, toiletries, baby items and so much more. I am sure those who receive these items will be truly grateful.

## FOAKS

The amazing support FOAKS give to our school has continued this term. As a result of the endless fundraising events, they have been able to buy us our beautiful buddy bench, picnic tables, our personalized clock, a set of digital cameras and even spoilt our teachers with a windfall to spend on their own class. The cake sale continues to raise the excitement across the school on a Friday; the 500 mile target was smashed and we are grateful for the offer of film club on a Monday so children can enjoy an after school club, without impacting on the workload of our dedicated staff. FOAKS are now focused on raising money for a new outdoor classroom/shelter, which can be enjoyed by all children. Heartfelt thanks go to all parents who contribute to FOAKS, however small, your contributions are invaluable to us.



### Parent Feedback

Parents have many opportunities to feedback as to how we can improve as a school, via Parent Forums or simply Class Dojo, and this feedback is invaluable and we really do listen to your suggestions! For example, a number of parents requested face to face parents' evenings for the spring term and longer than 8 minutes! This has happened this week and it was great to see so many parents attend.

Parents also asked if we could offer open mornings. Covid was responsible for us having to postpone this again in January but again, we were delighted to offer the chance for parents to finally join lessons last month. Feedback was excellent and we will certainly be looking to do this again in the summer term.

Please continue to feedback your ideas - we love to hear your thoughts.

### Summer Dates 2022

Summer dates have been planned and can be found in the Key Dates section on the website. There are still some last minute dates to be confirmed, 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.

### The Wider Community

We are excited to have been offered the opportunity to be creative for the Queen's Jubilee with an amazing prize for the winning family of Class 3, courtesy of Stapleford Hall. We have also enjoyed visits from the Dog's Trust, Severn Trent Water and the Fire Service too this term. If parents know of other community activities which you feel would benefit our children, please do let me know.

So, as the end of my second term comes to a close, I wish you a very happy Easter and I look forward to welcoming our children back for our summer term.

Andrea Brown  
Headteacher