



# Ab Kettleby Primary School

Working in partnership: Ab Kettleby and Somerby Primary Schools



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## Spring Term Round Up!

With the Spring Term about to come to an end, I cannot believe I am nearing 4 years at the two fabulous village schools. I read from time to time some issues other Headteachers, across the UK, deal with on a daily basis with poor behaviours and poor attendance of children and staff and it reminds me just how lucky I am to be leading two amazing schools, filled with fabulous children, supportive families and working with such a strong, dedicated team of which none of this would be achievable without them.

As we finish off the last few days of term, I would like to update or remind families of the following areas:

### Mental Health

Supporting children's positive mental health continues to be high on our agenda. Negative interactions between adults and children can result in children feeling unworthy or unloved, leading to low self-esteem and self-worth issues. Children may exhibit increased aggression, defiance, or withdrawal as a response. Excessive screen time can also lead to problems in children's emotional development, leading to aggressive behaviours or withdrawal. From time to time at school, we notice changes in a child's mood which then affects their ability to concentrate and learn. This may be as a result of an argument in the family home or online gaming being played before school.

Research shows that low self-esteem is consistently linked with low academic performance, therefore it is important, as adults, we help boost children's self-esteem. There are many things we can do to boost self-esteem, such as teaching children a new skill, and the holidays are a great time to do this. Children need to feel proud of their achievements; praise their efforts however small and let them know how important they are to you. We have a dedicated page on our website, supporting Mental Health, with helpful links to support parents further:

<https://www.abkettleby.org/page/?title=MENTAL+hEALTH+SUPPORT&pid=84>



### Part of Mowbray Education Trust

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### Behaviour Boost / Uniform

We are very proud of our behaviours at Ab Kettleby Primary School; children are very proud of their school; respectful and caring to others and polite to visitors and those around them. This doesn't come without hard work, positive reinforcement, consistency and daily reminders of expectations. One of our school rules is "Taking Pride" of ourselves and our environment and at this time of year we can see a slip in uniform expectations. Please help support this by ensuring your children are wearing the correct uniform - paying particular attention to shoes, socks, hair accessories, nail varnish and jewellery. PE will take place outside on dry days so please ensure an appropriate hoody is worn on those colder days. Full uniform details can be found on our website at <https://www.abkettleby.org/page/?title=School+Uniform&pid=65>

### Attendance and Lateness

Can I politely remind parents that the school gates open at 8:40am and learning starts immediately. There are a small number of children who regularly arrive just as the gate closes at 8:55am and due to the time it takes to sort out their belongings, they can lose up to 25 minutes of valuable learning per day - this can amount to over two weeks of learning time lost over an academic year! I appreciate from time to time the traffic causes delays but try where possible to arrive in good time for the start of the day.

### Environment Update

We have been supported by the Trust recently with some internal works, including a new front door. The next set of planned works is to repair the front paving (where staff park their cars) as many of the existing pavers are damaged and doesn't give a good first impression!

### Parent Forum

Parent voice is important to us to help keep standards and expectations high. We have trialled different approaches this year to gain this and the next opportunity will be a face to face Parent Forum on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 3:30pm. This will give parents the opportunity to find out what we are working on behind the scenes and offer any suggestions where needed. We will support with looking after younger siblings so as many of our parents can attend as possible. Further information will be sent out in due course.

### FOAKS

FOAKS continue to strive to raise money for our much wanted running track! There are a number of fundraising events planned for the summer term, including a Paint Club evening, a non-uniform day and of course the event of the year, the summer fair! We are in awe of the hard work the team put into events and appreciate all the support families give in donating to the cause!

### Local Elections

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May, the school is being used as a Polling Station for the local elections. This means the front door will be open to the general public and there may be an increased number of vehicles parked around our school. For safety reasons, we will keep the main part of the school locked and children will not be able to venture up to the main door/office area unaccompanied. Please bear this in mind if you are late to school or need to collect your child early for a medical appointment.

### Clubs Complete

We are working with Clubs Complete to try and improve the provision being offered to our children for wraparound care and to increase the interest. As part of this improvement plan, Clubs Complete are offering access to the Activity Club (3:15pm-4:15pm) from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, free of charge. If you are interested in booking a place, book via the website using the discount code: ABK100TS.

Please note, you can book up to three hours before a club starts. At the three-hour cut off point, the website will automatically prevent further bookings. In an emergency situation, if you need the service within three hours of the start, you are required to call the Clubs Complete office.

### Forest School - Willow Class @ Somerby

Miss Bray, is very close to becoming a fully trained Forest School Leader. Forest School is a nature-based learning approach that uses woodland or natural environments as a classroom, promoting holistic development through child-led exploration and play. As you know, here at Ab Kettleby Primary School, we are very lucky to have the perfect grounds for this and over the last year, as part of her training, Miss Bray has developed the grounds for exactly this purpose. We would like to give the children in Willow Class at Somerby Primary School the opportunity to join this learning, as they aren't as lucky to be surrounded by such grounds, and over the summer term, children from Willow Class will visit Ab Kettleby on a couple of mornings to introduce them to children in Bumble Bees and the school. This will then continue into the new academic year. We are looking forward to sharing our beautiful surroundings with the children from Somerby.

### Summer 2025 Dates

The summer term is nearly upon us and it is full of the usual end of year events, including class photos, Residential, EYFS home-visits, Sports' Day, transition and much much more! An updated events calendar is attached to this letter for your information. Please note the change of date for the End of Year Show. The original date clashes with the Belvoir High transition day, meaning three of our Y6 children would not be able to take part. We have moved the date to Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

So, as the end of the Spring 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 on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

Andrea Brown  
Headteacher