



December 2023

## Autumn Term Roundup

Dear parents and carers,

As we near the end of what feels like the longest, busiest, yet quickest term ever, I just want to take this opportunity to reflect over the weeks since August.

### FOAKS

I cannot thank our FOAKS team enough for their boundless energy and enthusiasm organising events in order to raise invaluable funds for our small but mighty school. From the start of term, we have enjoyed weekly cake raffles, two discos, Bags2School, wreath making, breakfast with Santa, an AGM, Barrow of Booze raffle and an offer of hot chocolate to celebrate our last day of term. All these events are so worthwhile for many reasons:

- Fundraising - school budgets are tight and luxuries, such as an outdoor classroom, buses to pantomimes or soft furnishings for classrooms, are all things we cannot afford to buy.
- Memories - these events are loved by all children (and families!).
- Community Spirit - the bringing together of our families is important to us, and these events are perfect for doing this. Without our families supporting these events, they wouldn't be as lucrative - so thank you to all who contribute - however small.

### Bon Voyage to our Creedon family

On that note, we are about to say goodbye to Jodie Creedon, who has played such an integral part of driving the fundraising events over the last few years. She and her family are about to embark on an opportunity of a lifetime and as much as we are incredibly sad to lose them all, we cannot wait to keep in touch, share their experiences and welcome them back to our Ab Kettleby family in 2025 - fingers crossed! This is not goodbye Creedon Family - just a "bon voyage" - good luck, enjoy every moment and keep in touch!

### Arts in School

One of the reasons we are able to attend so many events outside of school is due to funding we gain from FOAKS events to pay for transport - which has become so much more expensive over recent months. Subsidising this helps to keep the cost down for all families.



Part of Mowbray Education Trust

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Children First

In this term alone, we have attended a number of events and have many more planned for 2024. We welcomed back Kathryn Saunby Art Studio; Hayley from Iveshead to enjoy Drama in the curriculum; children in the Hive have enjoyed learning a new brass instrument; some have continued to develop their guitar playing and all our children will enjoy a well-earned Christmas trip to the Pantomime, together with their friends from Somerby Primary School.

Our choir was also reformed by Mrs Ferris and the children asked if we were able to go back to Framland Residential Home to sing to the residents. A quick phone call to the home and they were as delighted as we were that we were returning. It is so lovely to give something back to the community in this way; the residents loved seeing us again and the choir sounded amazing!

### Sport

Mrs Sporty Brown continues to provide a range of sporting opportunities for all our children, from wheelchair basketball, dodgeball, sportshall athletics and golf, to name but a few, as well as training up our Play Leaders who support other children in our school with activities during lunch break. She also organises training and development opportunities for our staff, across both Ab Kettleby and Somerby Primary School. We are incredibly proud of our sporting achievements and that is down to Mrs Sporty Brown's continued efforts ... even if she does constantly ask for a new trophy cabinet!

### Staffing

Mrs Morris, as you know, left us in May and is due to return from Maternity Leave in January 2024. She has decided to reduce her working hours for the time being, to enjoy more time with her beautiful daughter, and therefore will start at Grove Primary School in Year 1. We are delighted she has decided to come back to our Trust and wish her well in her new role!

Our student teacher, Mr Doyle, has been working alongside Mr Dash in Honey Bees since August, and as part of his ongoing training must spend a number of weeks in a different setting. He is heading off to Brownlow until February half term and we look forward to welcoming him back at the end of Spring to complete his course.

Miss Bray will also welcome a new student into Bumble Bees from January until February half term. Miss Rashid is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of her teacher training course with Nottingham Trent University.

### Spring 2024 Dates

I have updated and attached the Spring and Summer dates for your information. Further details will be sent about each event closer to the time.

### 2023 Reflections

As we near the end of our Autumn Term, I would like to thank my amazing team for their daily efforts, for the high expectations they have of our children and for the care they offer children and to each other. They make my role as Headteacher an absolute pleasure. Thank you also to the continued support of our families who help to make our small school so mighty.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Andrea Brown  
Headteacher