



Ab Kettleby Primary School

Working in partnership: Ab Kettleby and Somerby Primary Schools



Ab Kettleby Primary School
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Executive headteacher: Andrea Brown

9th July 2024

Summer Term Round Up!

Reflections of the year

I have to pinch myself at times when I think I am coming to the end of my 3rd year working at our small but mighty school and the journey we have been on, so far. I think I am the luckiest Headteacher in the world: to have such a strong team; fabulous children; strong parental support; a supportive FOAKS team and be surrounded by beautiful grounds. I am always looking to see how we can further improve the opportunities we offer our children, and I am excited to see what the 2024/2025 academic year brings us.

Our children amaze me every day with their determination to succeed and the excitement and energy they show towards their learning. Watching children in The Hive work together to perform the end of year show was such a proud moment for me: all children showed respect, kindness, pride, courage, teamwork, motivation and aspiration - values we instil in our children every day and our Year 6 children are ready to embark on their next stage of education.

And what a way to end the year with our 160th celebrations and our Trust Singing Spectacular! We were overwhelmed with the number of visitors we had for our 160th, taking a walk down memory lane, sharing stories of friendship, family and community spirit! Visitors included a range of former Headteachers, teachers, pupils and families representing those who are no longer with us. Our Headboy, Noah, and Headgirl, Immy, did a fabulous job of sharing our visitors' book and making sure we documented all who attended. Thank you to everyone who played their part in making the afternoon memorable and we look forward to being part of the next 160 years!

Our Trust Singing Spectacular was certainly spectacular. Our little choir did us proud: they were the smartest by far; had the biggest smiles on their faces, sang their hearts out and sounded amazing!

Year 6 goodbyes

Our current year 6 children were stepping into the world of The Hive when I first started at Ab Kettleby, 3 years ago, and it has been an absolute pleasure to see them develop as a Year 6 team. They have made such progress, not only academically but also in their resilience and attitude to learning. We will miss their smiling faces each day, and I truly hope they keep in touch and let us know how they are getting on at their new secondary schools. I have no doubt they will hold our school values close to their hearts and will continue to make us all proud. It



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Children First

is also sad to be saying goodbye to their families too, who have shared the children's journey at Ab Kettleby. We will miss you too!

Staffing Structure 24/25

I am happy to announce we have no change of teachers for the new academic year however, we do have a small change to our support staff. Miss Presbury will be leaving us to start a new job for the new academic year. Miss Presbury started with us 3 years ago, as an apprentice LSA. She successfully passed her apprentice year and has been reinforcing her skill set in Honey Bees ever since. She is ready to spread her wings and we wish her well on her new adventure. Until a suitable replacement can be found, Mrs Ferris will support Honey Bee and Bumble Bee classes.

The Hive - Year 4,5,6

Miss Digioia will continue as our Lead Teacher and teacher in the Hive. This year, Miss Digioia will be joined by Mr Carvell, our trainee teacher. Mr Carvell will be with the Hive for the whole year, except for a few weeks between January and February half term, when he will visit a 2nd placement, as part of his training.

Honey Bees - Year 2,3

Mr Dash will continue as teacher of Honey Bees Class and will be supported by Mrs Ferris in the mornings.

Bumble Bee - EYFS,Y1

Miss Bray will continue as teacher of Bumble Bee Class and will be supported by Mrs Gent in the mornings and Mrs Ferris in the afternoons.

Mrs Triggs will continue to support Bumble Bee and Honey Bees from August, covering the teachers when they have their planning and preparation time and Mrs Lee will continue to support the Hive when Miss Digioia has her planning and management time.

Uniform

School uniform is a really important part of life at Ab Kettleby Primary School. It promotes a sense of pride, a sense of belonging and maintains an equality, all of which positively contributes to the wellbeing of children. From time to time, incorrect uniform tends to creep into our school (e.g. incorrect hair accessories or sock colour, incorrect jewellery or logo shoes/trainers on non-PE days). We need parents to help us maintain our high expectations and double check the correct uniform is being worn for school and for PE days. As a reminder, the full uniform can be found on our website:

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

Statutory Attendance Guidance - August 2024

Attendance and Punctuality

This is just a reminder to all parents of the new statutory guidance which comes into force as of August 2024. A separate letter was sent out last week which identified the importance of good attendance, punctuality, and penalties for unauthorised absences. The learning day is so full, that even one day off school can cause gaps in children's knowledge and understanding and this can have a negative effect on their self-esteem and mental health. Our aim is for children to

attend school 96% or above, this gives leeway for genuine sickness, which may occur, in the academic year. Children are required to be in school at 8:45am for registration at 8:55am. **As from August we will open the gate at 8:40am and this will be closed at 8:55am. Anyone arriving after 8:55am will need to report to the office and will be marked as late.**

Social Media - Photograph Consent

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from appearing on social media posts (Facebook, Melton Times, Twitter etc). From time to time, children attend more public events, such as the end of year choir at the Theatre, and this makes it impossible to manage who is taking photographs and where those photographs will be posted. In light of this, any parent who chooses not to allow their child's photo to be used on social media, may not be able to attend such functions. We will not be able to change your consent for one off events, as we move into the new academic year.

Music Provision Autumn 24

I have managed to secure a 3rd year of music provision for the Autumn Term for children in the Hive. One afternoon per week, children will learn how to play the Djembe drums September to December. Children at Somerby Primary School will also be learning to play the Djembe drums and we are hoping to bring the two classes together for a little performance for parents to watch later in the Autumn term. Each Autumn term a new instrument will be introduced, giving children the opportunity to enjoy 3 different instruments over the time they are in the Hive (Guitar - Strings, Trumpet- Brass, Djembe - Percussion).

Extra after school club offer

In our bid to source extended school provision, we have managed to secure an extra club provision as from August. We will therefore be offering clubs 3 times a week on a regular basis. Details of all clubs will be sent out in the August Club letter.

Tesco Community Grant

We are delighted to let you know that our 2nd application to the Tesco Community Grants Scheme has been successful and our project will be put forward to a customer vote in Tesco stores from the beginning of July 2024 and will continue until the end of September 2024.

Our project is to continue to develop our pond area by creating a natural environment to attract wildlife and to provide our children with an outdoor learning area to support learning, wellbeing and the mental health of our children.

The project with the highest number of votes will receive £1,500, second placed project £1,000 and the third placed project £500.

Please see below a list of stores taking part in the voting on our project. Feel free to share this information with your family, friends and wider community.

Melton Mowbray Superstore LE13 1SQ
Nottingham Road Melton Mowbray Express LE13 0NR

To vote, you will need to make a purchase within one of these stores of any value. You will receive one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token. If you are not offered a token, please ask for one!

Parent Voice

Thank you to all families who responded to our “2024 Reflections” which we trialed for the first time last month. The uptake of this was excellent (I think the offer of Dojo points helped!) and we enjoyed reading all the lovely feedback and suggestions. Your opinions matter to us.

Chickens

It is with a heavy heart that we have made the decision to say goodbye to our chickens. Sadly, the coop has been attracting a high number of rats this year and this is proving not only costly but also a concern as to the welfare of the children who are our chicken monitors. Julie Riggall has very kindly fostered our chickens and has promised regular updates over coming months.

Thank you to our wonderful children and our parent volunteers who have done an amazing job over the last 3 years to help look after our feathered friends.

Autumn 2024 Dates

We are currently putting together dates for the new 24/25 academic year and we will send these out at the start of the Autumn Term. Children will start back on Tuesday 27th August 2024.

Please note, we have two INSET days for staff training on Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th October 2024 therefore school will close on the evening of Friday 18th October for the autumn half-term break and children will return on Wednesday 30th October.

End of year reports

Teachers have been working hard over the last few months to produce our children’s end of year reports and they were sent home on Monday. I hope you enjoyed reading your child’s end of year report as much as I did. They have all made amazing progress and we are so proud of every one of them. Each child at Ab Kettleby Primary School is unique and together they make our school small but mighty!

Thank you

As we finish off the final days of the term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fabulous team for making our school so mighty. They deserve a well-earned rest over the coming weeks for the work they do, above and beyond expectations: time to recharge the batteries and spend time with family and friends.

Thank you to our fabulous children and families for your continued support and on behalf of all of us at Ab Kettleby Primary School, we wish you a great summer!

Andrea Brown
Headteacher