



Ab Kettleby Primary School



Working in partnership: Ab Kettleby and Somerby Primary Schools

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Spring Term Round Up!

As we come to the end of another fabulous spring term, I am amazed at just how fast this term has gone.

I watch with pride how the children in our school show such patience and tolerance with each other. At lunchtimes the older children 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 to learn and develop as an individual. In February we had a visit from author Troy Jenkinson who commented “It was an honour to work with such dedicated teams and fabulous children. The children are lucky to be educated there”. Such a great testimonial!

Behaviour Boosts

As part of our ongoing work with oracy, our behaviour boost has been to continue developing language. Children are encouraged to answer in full sentences; to listen carefully to others’ ideas and are learning to disagree respectfully, using sentence starters as cues. Children are encouraged to say good morning on the gate and to engage in conversation with adults in and around school. Research shows that children speaking in full sentences boosts cognitive development, improves communication and strengthens literacy foundations. Key benefits include better vocabulary acquisition, enhanced memory and reasoning, higher self-esteem and better preparation for reading and writing. Try to encourage your children at home to speak in full sentences to help support this further.

Mental Health

As you will be aware there is a great deal of news around the use of AI and accessing social media, and its negative effect on mental health of children (and adults!). Online activity can be addictive: excessive use of the internet, social media, or gaming can interfere with daily life, relationships, and work. It is considered a behavioural addiction similar to gambling. Excessive screen time is strongly associated with worsened ADHD symptoms—specifically inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity—by providing constant, high-speed stimulation that



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alters reward processing in the brain. It disrupts sleep, reduces physical activity, and can lead to structural brain changes, such as reduced cortical thickness in regions regulating attention.

As we enter the Easter holidays, try to limit screen time: establish device-free zones (like bedrooms), set strict, consistent limits using parental control tools and model healthy habits by reducing your own device usage. Replace screen time with offline activities such as board games, outdoor play, reading or sitting round a table enjoying a device-free meal!

School Uniform

High expectations are important to us, and we have noticed again that some non-uniform items are slipping back into school - jewellery, smart watches, trainers, hair accessories to name a few. Please read the uniform section on our website and ensure children are dressed in full uniform, especially during non-PE days, paying particular attention to the following:

- Sensible plain flat black shoes or plain all black trainers (no logo).
- No jewellery.
- Watches are allowed **but not 'smart' watches.**
- No nail varnish to be worn.
- Long hair must be tied up.
- Hair accessories should be in a sensible colour, plain and without embellishment.

Please ensure watches do not have alarms set on them - this has proven to be very distracting this term, especially in the Hive!

Attendance / lateness

The evidence supporting the link between good school attendance and positive outcomes is overwhelming, with higher attendance rates consistently correlating with better academic performance, increased wellbeing, and improved long-term opportunities. Conversely, poor attendance is strongly linked to lower attainment, with 90% of young people with attendance below 85% failing to achieve five or more good GCSE grades.

Did you know...?

- A child whose attendance is 85%, equates to 29 days of missed school days - a whole month of missed learning, which cannot be given back. If this continues each year for the duration of their primary school life, a staggering 203 school days equating to 40 weeks, a whole school year, of missed education!
- A child whose attendance is 90%, equates to 19 missed school days: 19 hours of maths; 19 hours of reading and 19 hours of writing which cannot be given back. Again, over the duration of their time in primary school equates to 27 weeks of missed learning - equivalent to a whole autumn and spring term of missed education.
- A child whose attendance is 96%, which is our school and Trust target, equates to 7.5 missed school days - this gives leeway for genuine sickness in an academic year - equating to 10 weeks of missed education over the 7 years of education.

The National Curriculum builds on prior learning and missed learning causes gaps which can also cause stress, knock children's self-esteem and negatively impact on their educational and life chances.

Arriving late can also be unsettling for your child and the rest of their class, and result in missed learning. Learning in the classroom starts immediately and parents should ensure their child arrives at 8:40am each day.

Arriving late after the register closes, will also be classed as an unauthorised absence for the whole of the morning session. If a child has 10 unauthorised sessions (equivalent of 5 days) within a 10-week period, this will result in a Penalty Notice (fine) issued by the Local Authority.

FOAKS - Running Track!

As you know, over the last couple of years FOAKS have been working hard to help raise enough money for a running track. We are delighted to announce they are on track to have raised the funds by July 2026. Due to the time it takes to gain quotes, find a suitable company to carry out the work and secure a date, the Trust have agreed we can go ahead and get this booked in, with an "IOU" from FOAKS. Leicestershire County Council will start work on Monday 13th July 2026. This will make such a difference to our sporting offer (e.g. to support our cross-country runners!) and we will be able to use the field all year round for those children who need a bit of space away from the busyness of the playground in winter!

Our Environment

The Trust are continuing to help improve our environment and CCTV will be installed during the month of April. Cameras will be positioned on entry and exit points to help improve security.

Mrs Triggs

After 11 happy years at Ab Kettleby and 38 years of teaching, Mrs Triggs is finally hanging up her teaching shoes and heading for retirement. Mrs Triggs started her teaching career at Hose Primary School, then moved to Waltham Primary School for 14 years before moving to Ab Kettleby 11 years ago. Mrs Triggs has been an integral part of our school, covering teachers' ppa time and being our on-call supply for both Ab Kettleby and Somerby. She will leave a huge hole at our school and will be missed by us all, but we wish her all the best for many years of a retired life by the seaside, enjoying the Cornwall air with her husband and dog!

Stay and Play Sessions for new starters Autumn 2026

Just after Easter we are looking forward to finding out who our new starters are for Autumn 2026. We have organised two stay and play sessions to help the children transition and we have planned in time for Miss Bray and Mrs Gent to meet the children in the children's own home environment. This is a really important time for us to start to build a picture of our new children to ascertain what support they may need as they start their educational journey. Details of those days will be sent out after Easter.

SATS - Y6 end of Key Stage Two Assessments

Four weeks after Easter, our Year 6 will sit their end of Key Stage Two Assessments. The children have worked so hard this year and we want to keep up the momentum. Please encourage your Year 6 children to practice some maths, reading, spelling and grammar work daily - little and often - to help practice and consolidate their understanding. This is their chance to shine and we want them to make sure they make good use of the two weeks off!

Summer Dates 2026

We have lots to look forward to as we move into the summer term so please keep an eye on our monthly diary letters and dojo posts to keep up to date with events. I have attached an updated planner covering the summer term.

As we move towards our two-week Easter break, on behalf of us all at Ab Kettleby, we would like to wish our families a happy Easter and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 13th April 2026.

Andrea Brown
Headteacher