

Parent Forum Minutes



CHILDREN COME FIRST.

Meeting title:	Autumn term meeting of the Ab Kettleby Primary School Parent Forum
Date and time:	Monday 24th January 2022 at 3.15 pm
Location:	Meeting at the school

In attendance	*	Andrea Brown, Headteacher.
	*	Catherine Parker.
	*	Suzie Skelton.
	*	Jodie Creedon.
	*	Gena Ferguson.
	*	John Kerrill.
	*	Marcus Taylor.
	*	Anna Duval, MET Clerk.

Welcome and Introductions

Mrs Brown welcomed everyone to the Parent Forum meeting. She explained how it is a good opportunity for parents to give opinions and share thoughts and the forum enables parents to feedback and suggest improvements to children's learning experiences.

Mrs Brown reminded parents that these meetings will not discuss items relating to specific pupils, specific parents, or individual staff as these should be discussed one to one with the relevant teacher or herself as appropriate and that parents do not have to wait until a Forum and can contact the school at any time

Summary of the Autumn Term

Mrs Brown gave a summary of the Autumn Term.

- **Behaviour Culture.** The behaviour culture is now becoming more established as a routine.
 - Reflection Sheets. If required children complete a reflection sheet to help them think about what caused it and how their actions could improve their behaviour. There have been behaviour boosts and raffle tickets for rewards can be gained. Children are encouraged to follow self-regulation, so they follow the rules even when a teacher is not looking.
- **Sentence Starters.** The children are given sentence starters to help give them the vocabulary, social skills, and the confidence to start a conversation with visitors and adults in the school.

- **Improve Teaching and Learning experiences for children.**

- Improving Teaching.

This is so that every child can fully access the lesson and what they need to do this is in place for them.

- Marking enhances progress.

To give children consistent feedback on their work.

- Curriculum across all subjects.

The curriculum map shows each subject, at each year group, and each term. It shows the progression of knowledge and how some areas are revisited and developed. The transition from year 6 to secondary school is considered and the subject area knowledge needed is included in the curriculum to ensure the children are prepared for high school.

- **Wellbeing – Feel Good Friday – Mindfulness.**

Every week the children do a half hour mindfulness session that include activities like yoga, mindful art or breathing windmills.

- **Social Media:**

The school is raising its profile on Facebook and Twitter and a number of potential parents of children looking to join the school have made contact through social media.

- **FOAKS.**

The Friends of Ab Kettleby School have raised funds to purchase:

- Buddy Bench £1040.
- Transport to the panto £545.
- Christmas gifts for the children £130.83.
- Playground clock (as requested by the children) £168.
- Picnic benches will be coming soon.

Mrs Brown and the staff thanked FOAK for these additional worthwhile resources.

Feedback from Parents What is Working Well.

Mrs Brown contacted parents in advance of the meeting for feedback and parents said the following was working well.

- My children are very happy at school / Children are happy.
- I am currently happy with all aspects of their school life and progress academically.
- Excellent communication to parents on any issues.
- Behaviour policy is great and has instilled a culture of politeness, consideration, and care for each other in the children.
- Teachers are great at communicating via dojo and I feel like all the staff know the children well and interact with them in a positive way.
- Great to see outdoor learning starting!
- Communication at the start of this year for the forth coming events in school; Class topics, key monthly dates and school term dates has been most useful for keeping up to date with what's happening at school / Communication is positive and proactive.
- I really enjoyed the music content at Christmas. It was lovely to see the children singing at church and the girls singing with Mrs Ferris via social media posts.

- Staff are kind and supportive of children and seem to work well as a team.
- Sport is high priority and events are well attended.
- Links between school and PTA are stronger than they have been, potentially due to more interest from Head.

Feedback from Parents: Things to Improve?

Mrs Brown contacted parents in advance of the meeting for questions to raise. The following was received from parents in advance of the meeting. Mrs Brown addressed each one.

- “Face to Face Parents Evenings “

Covid allowing yes! We will allocate a 15-minute slot, but this must be adhered to, to allow all parents to keep to their allocated time.

- “Improved communication of what children will be learning in the upcoming term.”

We send out the termly topic plan at the beginning of each term. It is also posted on Dojo and can be found on our Website. This shows all areas of learning across all subjects.

- “Use a different format for spelling like introducing spelling shed. “

We use a variety of spelling resources to help children spell, from writing them in a list, writing them in a sentence in context, using Box Spellings and many more. Spellings is something I am looking at across the school to improve as the known “spelling test” isn’t good for those children who don’t manage stressful situations well.

- “Music / Drama education doesn’t seem to be that strong currently would be nice to see growth in this area of teaching and learning. Maybe opportunities for instrument or music teachers to come to the school or more music/ drama-based clubs/activities? “

As mentioned on the “Spring Term” page earlier, I have booked music tuition for Class 3 for the Autumn term when they will learn the guitar. Each autumn term a different instrument will be taught. Therefore, children should experience 3 different instruments in their time at Ab Kettleby as a minimum. Parents will then be offered the chance to continue tuition 1:1 or small group as private tuition if any child wishes to continue to learn their new skill. We have a drama team working with Class 1 next term. They are new to us, so if we think they are good, we will offer this wider. If anyone has any links with other drama teachers, who may be interested in supporting an after-school club, please get in touch.

- “How can communication between home/staff to discuss a pupil's progress or issues be improved? It's not always possible to talk at the school gate about matters. Past experience of dojo messages and email have meant questions haven't always been answered. What's the best way please to communicate?”

Parents at the meeting commented on how good communication was at school. Dojo is for quick messages e.g. He has forgotten his PE kit! The morning gate time is more about meeting and greeting the children and making them feel welcome and wanted in school. It isn't really the time for in-depth conversations as it is too public. To speak to your class teacher, simply message your class teacher on dojo or ring the office and ask them to book a face-to-face meeting. Please bear in mind our teachers have other commitments after school, such as staff meeting or after school clubs, but will find the first available afternoon for you.

- “Continuity and retention of staff. There seems to have been a lack of awareness to the need for consistency and the importance of bonds that are formed between young children and their teachers. - What is school doing to help with retention of staff and where not possible, what is done to communication from outgoing teacher to help new teacher get up to speed as quickly as possible.”

School is very aware of the importance of bonds created between teachers and children and we work hard to ensure these are formed quickly. Without this, children will not learn. However, the resignations received in the autumn term were historical and sadly impacted halfway through the first term. Due the timing of the resignations, only temporary staff could be sought, for two terms. Job adverts will be going out very soon to attract new teachers to the school to start with us in the new academic year. Our current temporary staff are very welcome to apply for the permanent position if they wish. Every effort will be made to appoint and retain staff moving forward. However, we cannot plan for natural moves such as family, promotion, or location. Every effort is made to transition the new teachers in for minimal disruption to the children.

- “Reading for home - the book only seems to change very infrequently, and my child is often bored of her book having read it numerous times at both home and school so loses interest in school home reading. We can't be sure the books we have at home are the right level and are in line with where she is at school.”

The children are encouraged to read the same book 4 times during the week, for example: Day 1 – Read the words, decode any unknown words where needed Day 2 – Look at vocabulary and make sure all words are understood in context Day 3 – Read again using intonation (voice pitch / different voices for characters / pauses for punctuation. Day 4 – “Perform” the story to the audience – using all the above learnt. Repetition is key to learning to read and to increase confidence in reading. We ensure all children have the correct level of book but if you are concerned, check with your class teacher in case they have picked up the wrong one by mistake!

- “I know FOAKS has parent suggestions for great fundraising activities and events perhaps the parent forum could be used to discuss school learning related activities. For example, The Space centre at Leicester is a forthcoming trip on this Spring's Topic work. Can parents make suggestions here at the forum for pupil Topic lead trips? Could a Jewry Wall visit be considered as a memorable experience about the Romans from Spring Topic work?”

Yes, don't wait for a Parent Forum! If you know of a good activity locally which may be of interest, let us know!

- Other school activities The after-school enrichment activities recently have been very helpful, the sewing one in particular, could knitting, crocheting or other arts/crafts be considered?

We have such limited staff (only 3 teachers to lead an after-school club) that we are limited to their individual talents as to what we can offer – if they can't knit, we can't do an after-school knitting club! If any parent, or grandparent have any hidden talents and would be happy to volunteer their time, we would love to know, and we can support you in this to make it happen. Get in touch!

- “Finally, could learning CPR be something to be included in an extra lesson? “

I'm not sure if at Primary level anyone has been into school to discuss CPR +demonstrate- obviously Covid restrictions permitting. Yes. I understand St John's Ambulance carry out CPD for Y6. I will look into it.

- A question was raised about Y6 SATS.

Due to covid SATS hasn't happened in schools for the last 2 years and parents were asking what it involved and when it happened. We will organise a Y6 SATS parent meeting to inform parents of upcoming SATS. A date will follow

Discussion focus suggested by Trust Board

The Trust Board may ask for opinions on certain areas for focus at the meetings from time to time and there were no items received on this occasion.

Next Meeting

The next Parent Forum meeting is on **Thursday 26th May 2022 at 9.00am.**

The meeting closed at 4.30pm.