

# Parent Forum Minutes



## CHILDREN COME FIRST.

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<b>Meeting title:</b>	<b>Summer term meeting of the Ab Kettleby Primary School Parent Forum</b>
<b>Date and time:</b>	<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 9.00 am</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Meeting at the school</b>
<b>In attendance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Andrea Brown, Headteacher.</li><li>* Rachael Connerton.</li><li>* Tracey King.</li><li>* Helen Lowe.</li><li>* Emma Orton.</li><li>* Debbie Longley-Brown.</li><li>* Felicity Taylor.</li><li>* Anna Duval, MET Clerk.</li></ul>

### Welcome and Introductions

Mrs Brown welcomed parents to the summer term Parent Forum especially to those parents who are attending their first meeting. She said that she had look at the feedbacked and questions received from parents from Microsoft forms by yesterday afternoon and said if parents have any further questions they may be asked during the meeting.

She explained how the meetings are to get feedback and suggestions of improvements from parents and to help promote positive and effective two-way communication between parents and the Trust. She said the improvement of children's learning experience is the Forum's clear and consistent goal.

Parents were reminded that these meetings do not discuss items relating to specific pupils, specific parents, or individual staff and this should be discussed one to one with the relevant teacher or Headteacher as appropriate.

## Summary of the Spring Term

Mrs Brown gave a summary of the Spring Term.

- Behaviour Culture:
  - Reflections
  - Behaviour Boosts (Self-Regulation when no one is watching / “Ask Questions” SLANT)

Mrs Brown said they have continued to work upon the behaviour culture in school. She asked if any parents have watched ‘Britain’s strictest headteacher’ on television where a school in London use SLANT but slightly more strict than the manner in which SLANT is used in this school. She said they try to get the children to understand that they need to show kindness, to be proud of themselves and their environment, and to be self-regulated. Mrs Brown said they have found that children answer question but are not so good at asking questions and they want children to be more engaged in their learning and to ask questions. Mrs Brown said they have introduced question boards in each classroom and children can ask any question they like.

- Mental Health:
  - Sentence Starters
  - Mindfulness – Feel Good Friday

Mrs Brown said the children’s mental health is as important as their physical health.

- Improve Teaching and Learning experience for children:
  - Curriculum Development

Mrs Brown said they are still continuing to improve teaching and learning and are very close to having all subjects mapped out from reception to year 6. The curriculum map shows progression, building knowledge and how it is recapped. The next aim will focus on how the curriculum looks in the classroom and how the children progress.

- New Phonic Scheme – lowest 20% readers

The new phonics scheme started in January. The lowest 20% of readers receive interventions. Mrs Brown said that those receiving intervention may be at higher reading levels than those in other schools, but it is our school’s lowest 20%.

- Stay and Play – EYFS for new starters

Mrs Brown said there will be 10 new starters in September, and they have been having some stay and play sessions in the school for them and some transitional days are planned in July.

- Eco Warriors

Mrs Brown said the children in the Eco Warriors group are very active. She shared some things they had done recently. The children were unhappy about finding a chocolate bar wrapper on the school fields that hadn’t been put in the bin and they have asked if they can have an hour without electricity each week although they do not want this to be over lunch time. Mrs Brown said they are looking at when a suitable time may be.

- Parents’ Evenings / Open Days

Mrs Brown said it was good to have been able to hold these face to face and having them over four days gave more choice for parents. Parents said this arrangement worked well. Mrs Brown said that the open days enabled parents to see the school as it normally is.

- Wider Community – Dogs’ Trust / Fire Service / Stapleford Hall

The Dog’s Trust and the Fire Service have visited the school.

Children from both Somerby and Ab Kettleby schools have been involved in the ‘Queen’s Bust’ project. The children are making a bust of the queen, and it will be on display at Stapleford Hall.

Mrs Brown said there is a community project with the police and said that the children at the village schools are isolated away from the town but when they go to high school they may be exposed to children and situations from the wider community. Mrs Brown said there are a group of children in Melton involved with knife crime and anti-social behaviour and the police go into Melton schools to talk with children. Mrs Brown said she wants the police to visit to talk to the children here, so they are aware of the issues and to see the face of the police and be made aware they are a safe place to go to for help.

- FOAKS.

Mrs Brown thanked the PTA committee, Friends of Ab Kettleby School, for holding a number of events and raising funds for the school.

During the spring term 2022 they have raised: cake club £343.29, AK500 miles £430.91, chocolate bingo £86.69, easy fundraising £53.40, Monday club £270.58, Twosday £57.91 and valentine cake sale £136.21.

This has enabled the purchase of: cameras for class 3 £286.49, easter eggs for all children £41.44, class 1 Christmas gift spend (so far) £175.35 and chickens £135.53.

Mrs Brown said that class 3 want a pet gecko, but they need to look into the logistics of this as the current class teacher is leaving. Class 2 is still thinking about what they wish to buy, and parents said the children are thinking about books for a reading area.

## Summer Term

- **Residential and Class Trip to the zoo**

Mrs Brown said it was positive how the two schools went on the residential trip together and it was good to see friendships form and there was a trip to the zoo yesterday.

- **Leavers’ Assembly / End of Year Show / Summer Fair**

These will take place later in the term.

- **End of Year Reports**

The reports will be sent to parents in the last week of term.

- **Transitions**

On the Monday and Tuesday of the last week of term all children will spend the day in the class they are moving to in the Autumn term.

- **Staffing for Autumn 2022**

Mrs Brown gave an update on the staffing for the Autumn term. She explained that last August two teachers left at a time when it was difficult to recruit so they were temporarily replaced with a long-term supply teacher and a teacher on a temporary contract.

Mrs Brown said two teachers have now been appointed for class 2 and class 3. Children in Class 2 had four teachers delivering lessons last week as part of the interview process and the teacher appointed was teacher “number 4” who lives locally and was one of the children’s favourites. Mrs Brown said she is very pleased with the appointments.

Mrs Quail has been employed as a Trust teacher and will be covering Mrs Fryer who will be going on maternity leave. Parents asked about the year 4/5/6 class and the staffing arrangements. Mrs Brown said they will have a full-time teacher with Mrs Quail, Mrs Ferris as the learning support assistant and a trainee teacher in the class who will be there most of the year except for a few weeks when they will be out on training.

Mrs Brown said she has a desire to employ first class teachers in all classes and that she will always wait for the right person. She said that in the longer term the teachers need to be able to teach all year groups especially in a small school with only 3 classes. Mrs Brown said that teaching is a vocation and teachers need to impact and improve the outcomes for all children in their class. She wishes to improve the retention of staff and aims to build and develop their skills and to ensure staff are happy and thrive. She said the curriculum needs to offer a broad and balanced to curriculum which excites children, staff, and parents.

### **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.

- Dojo is great for easy communication to parents. It means that everything is written and less pressure to get hold of teachers after school time
- Mixing of classes (now they can). especially with the mixed class reading sessions. It’s really nice within a small school they are able to do this, feel it really helps with a strong school support system and friendships across age groups.
- The mud kitchen area.
- Sports
- Extracurricular activities have been interesting recently. I always really like things like the chickens; helps with our identity as a small village school and it’s really unique.

### **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.

- **Unfortunately, children with SEN needs the communication has been very poor this year. I have had one SEN meeting with the SEN lead in October 2021. I hope with Mrs Fryer leaving that SEN needs will still be looked at and more frequently and myself as a parent is updated regularly.**

Mrs Brown explained the role of the SENCO is to:

- To ensure all staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to provide high quality teaching and learning opportunities for all pupils
- To liaise with outside agencies / apply for funding / to support children with EHCP / Top up Funding etc

She explained it is in fact the role of Class Teacher to:

- To provide Quality First Teaching to all children
- To set targets for each child
- To update targets termly following assessments
- To keep parents up to date with targets/progress

Mrs Brown reiterated that Mrs Fryer had successfully secured funding for a number of children and an EHCP agreed over the year. Mrs Brown also encouraged parents to speak to their class teacher regularly if they are concerned about their child, rather than waiting until parents evenings or parent forums to express concerns. Mrs Brown said that as Mrs Fryer who is the SENCO will be on maternity leave the SENCO from Grove will be supporting both Ab Kettleby and Somerby and opportunities in the final term will be available for parents to meet her.

**More notice of events when parents can attend class in the day. It can be tricky to juggle when less notice is given.**

Dates are mapped (as much as possible) and sent out for the year in August.

Termly updates are then sent Spring Term and Summer Term.

Monthly reminders are sent.

Weekly / daily reminders on Dojo.

Open Days were delayed twice due to covid and therefore only 4 weeks' notice was given in Spring Term – but this isn't the case in "normal times".

Parents at the meeting said they thought that communication has improved.

**Any updates on the pond area?**

This is still on my "to do list" but it involves money!

I have had to prioritise other areas this year, but I have started to put feelers out as to what we can do and who can support us.

The first part is to clear it all out and see what is in there. I am sure a group of volunteers will all help one weekend, but I still need to work out the logistics of removing everything.

A parent said there is a natural England grant that may be available and will send details of it to Mrs Brown.

**Some feedback on how my child has done following on from homework - i.e., how did they get on in weekly spellings, with homework submitted... often my child is not really sure how she did, as someone else marks her spellings? and she is not sure of her actual result so she can't tell if home practice helped her or not.**

During these meetings we will not be discussing items relating to specific pupils. This should be discussed one to one with the relevant teacher.

Please speak to the class teacher regarding this.

**Staff turnover continues to be an issue, impact on attachments, long term relationships between children, staff, and families.**

As I have previously mentioned, the staff I started with, I inherited and therefore inherited previous issues. Due to the timing of their resignation, the only option I had was to employ temporary staff for 21/22. Permanent contracts have been offered for 22/23.

**Is there a plan for the teacher for years 2+3 next year yet?**

YES – as mentioned earlier, an appointment has been made and details will be sent out after half term.

Parents asked Mrs Brown to pass on their thanks to Mr Buckland and said they thought he is very enthusiastic teacher who loves teaching.

**Parents asked about music lessons.**

Mrs Brown said there will be a rolling programme of music tuition across the two schools for years 4/5/6. By year 6 children will have had the opportunity to learn 3 instruments. For those interested, parents will be offered further music lessons either in small groups or as one to one tuition. These will be paid for lessons, but pupil premium children may be able to receive the lessons for free.

Children from the school are part of MET Choir that will be performing at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee concert on Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the bandstand in the play close, Melton Park. There is a specially commissioned song and two children from Somerby won the lyric writing competition to have their lyrics included. This is the first event for the new MET choir and is being coordinated by Lucy Mitcham, performing arts lead at John Ferneley College.

Parents asked about the focus on kindness and respect. They said they have noticed a recent change in its decline especially with cross year interactions. Mrs Brown said there is always a drop in behaviour after easter and children tend to have anxieties in the summer term as they prepare for transition. Mrs Brown said they are aware of it, it is ongoing work, and they want behaviour culture to become a habit.

**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 will be arranged in the Autumn term.

The meeting closed at 10.00am.