

Parent Forum Minutes



CHILDREN COME FIRST.

Meeting title:	Ab Kettleby Primary School Parent Forum
Date and time:	Wednesday 15th February 2023 at 9.00 am
Location:	Meeting at the school

In attendance	*	Andrea Brown, Headteacher
	*	Emma Carr
	*	Karen Caroll
	*	Gena Ferguson
	*	Tracey King
	*	Helen Musson
	*	Felicity Taylor
	*	Marcus Taylor
	*	Rachael Connerton
	*	Harriet Morris, Teacher
	*	Stuart Hill, MET Chair of Community Committee
	*	Anna Duval, MET Clerk

Welcome and Introductions

Mrs Brown welcomed parents to the spring term Parent Forum especially to those parents who are attending their first meeting and to Stuart Hill from Mowbray Education Trust (MET).

Mr Hill described his role as Chair of the Community Committee. He said the Community Committee aims to close the gap between the parents, the schools and the Trust and welcomes feedback from parent forums. The minutes from the parent forum meetings go to the Community Committee which meets four times a year.

Mrs Brown explained that the rationale of the parent forum meetings is to get feedback from parents, ideas from parents that could bring the curriculum to life, and local knowledge. 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. Mrs Brown offered to talk individually to parents at the end of the meeting.

FOAKS. Friends of Ab Kettleby School

Mrs Brown said she and the school are very grateful to FOAKS who put in a large amount of effort into organising events and fundraising to buy items for the school.

A summary of events with amounts raised so far was shown:

- Back to school disco £28.71.
- Cake club £518.64.
- Monday club £19.17.
- Easy fundraising £171.11.
- Breakfast with Santa £98.73.
- Halloween disco £108.49.
- Bags2school £112.
- Wreath making workshop £585.68.
- Parachute jump £736.07.
- Football boot raffle £409.
- Christmas cards £382.42. (will be reduced after invoice)
- Nativity refreshments £27.46.

Items purchased:

- Christmas gifts for the children £124.37.
- Class 2 gifts £198.90.
- Class 3 gifts £201.03.

Classes spent some money on items for their rooms including fish and a fish tank. Children are enjoying being 'fish monitors' to take care of the fish.

Spring Term 2022

Tesco Communities Project. Mrs Brown said that the Tesco blue token scheme is underway and encouraged parents to ask for the blue tokens when shopping at Tesco Express or the main store. Funds from this will be used to clear out and improve the pond area. The school will receive either 3rd place £500, 2nd place £1000, or 1st place £1500.

FOAKS are still saving hard for an outdoor shelter/ classroom with an aim to have this later in the spring or summer term.

Ofsted Feedback

Mrs Brown said the school was visited by Ofsted last term and provided some feedback on areas for improvement. She said these were areas they had already identified and are in the school development plan.

Areas For Improvement:

- Some subject leaders have not had time to check how well the intended curriculum is being implemented in their subjects. This means they are unaware of the quality of learning that is taking

place. Subject leaders need to ensure they regularly check that the intended curriculum is being delivered to a high quality and that pupils can remember and apply what they have been taught.

Mrs Brown said that last year was spent making the curriculum maps and making sure the progress from reception through to year 6 is in place. Mrs Brown said 2 out of the 3 teachers are new to the school and that subject leaders across both schools need time to fully look at their subjects. At that time as a trust they had deep dived four subjects and it is a programmed timetable to look at the other subjects over the remaining year. Mrs Brown said there is a 3-year rolling curriculum for years 4/5/6 and that they have found teachers across Ab Kettleby and Somerby working together to plan the curriculum, moderate it and plan trips is working well.

- A small number of pupils do not have a full understanding and tolerance of the individual needs of others. This may hamper their readiness for the next stages of their education. Leaders should ensure that pupils learn more about difference and diversity so that they are fully prepared for the next stages in their education.

Mrs Brown said that if things are happening in a child's life it shows in their behaviour that some children need additional support for this. AB said they are doing a lot of work with children on tolerance and diversity to help children understand others.

Work on Tolerance

Mrs Brown said the children's work on tolerance is being linked to the values of inclusivity and the to the British values of tolerance. Mrs Brown said they have updated some topics e.g., WW2 to include modern conflicts like Ukraine.

Work on positive mental health strategies

Mrs Brown said that she will be completing training to become the school's senior mental health lead and mental health first aider. Mrs Brown said they have been reactive, and they want to learn strategies to enable early intervention to improve children's mental health. Mrs Brown said they will continue the Feel-Good Fridays and described how the trust has a Trauma Informed and Therapeutic Wellbeing Practitioner who will work with children who need support, and the school also has an ELSA. (emotional literacy support assistant)

Long term memory

Mrs Brown said they are doing the following things to help improve the children's long-term memory, to recall subjects and refresh topics taught previously: Flash Back 4 for maths where children answer a question from yesterday, last week, last term and last year, recap quizzes, history timeline and RE links to religions and beliefs.

School council focus

Mrs Brown said the children are still doing charitable fundraising activities.

The children are also doing debate questions. This helps them be think about issues and for discussions and assemblies to come from the child's voice. Last term the debate question was 'is online gaming safe?' This term the debate question is 'are all school rules important?' and this will be linked to the British Value "Rule of the Law".

Feedback from Parents What is Working Well.

A MS Forms survey was sent to all parents in advance of the meeting to give feedback and raise questions to the parent forum. Parents said the following was working well.

- Communication. I always feel like I'm kept in the loop.
- Bringing learning alive! The Viking day, gingerbread man, on his travels, show trip etc has been a big hit and such a fun way to learn.
- Offering for sports activities and strong parent engagement with school to further enrich all children.

Feedback from Parents: Things to Improve?

- The school meals seem to not be as good as they could be, in the opinion of both of my children. This has meant that they have chosen to opt for home packed lunches. This seems a shame as I feel they could have benefited more from having better quality hot meals in the daytime. That said, I respect that this is largely outside of your control and is merely more feedback than a point towards change.

Mrs Brown said she has looked at the school dinners and felt the quality of the meals were good. Staff monitor, check portion sizes and feedback to the catering company Taylor Shaw. Parents said sometimes children don't like the option. Mrs Brown said if options are less popular this again is fed back to the catering company. Parents said when they first switched to this catering company it was good, but their children are saying the meals are not so good now. It was agreed that Mrs Brown will enquire to see if the catering company can offer a tasting session and that parents should continue to give feedback on the catering offer.

- The after-school choir group was a massive hit with all those who took part and I know it's really being missed by the children. Understand the difficulties but is a shame can only be offered during autumn term. The singing in assembly is enjoyed but it's not quite the same. Just wanted to share how much choir was enjoyed.

Mrs Brown said the trust are looking to arrange a young voices choir in the near future. The choir was attended by ten children. The school offers a range of activities for all children.

- Offering of subsidised music lessons in school time with area teachers.

Music tuition takes place for Hive class. Small group or individual guitar lessons are now being offered at a cost. The school can subsidise for those in receipt of free school meals, but the school budget is not able to cover the costs for all children. Parents said they felt the cost of the lessons at £7 were a reasonable price. Hive class will have lessons in another musical instrument (probably Brass) in the Autumn term.

- Timing and plans for the Hive in May

Miss Morris is due to start maternity leave in the summer term. Mrs Dickson who has been in working with the year 6 children (two days a week) and will lead the class full time to cover the maternity leave on a temporary basis. A new full time permanent teacher role has been advertised to start in September through the Trust. Mrs Fryer, who is on maternity leave, is due to return in July.

Questions

- Parents asked about the year 6 children and said when they looked around the school several years ago year 6 were a separate class at that time but now years 4/5/6 are together as one class. Mrs Brown said the 4/5/6 class has a full-time teacher, a full-time assistant, and a student teacher. Mrs Brown said in years 4/5/6 many topics are similar and that year 6 children consolidate their learning in year 6. Year 6 children have also had separate individual learning through the national tutoring scheme. Mrs Brown said if the intake of 11 continues that will give potentially 33 in that class. Parents asked if the year 6 separate learning will continue? Mrs Brown said this will depend on whether the national tutoring funding continues. Parents said they felt it has not been detrimental having 4/5/6 together as it helps them with empathy, gives them role models and consolidates their learning. The curriculum maps out the children's learning to ensure all areas are covered and has differentiated learning to meet the needs of year groups and individuals.
- Parents asked if the school council presentations on debate topics can be shared with parents. Mrs Brown said it is available on the website and will let parents know it is available via dojo. Mr Harriet said they are due to give another presentation on the rules this week.
- Parents said that some children discuss their school day more than others. Mrs Brown said parents will get a chance to look at the children's books to view their work at parents evening.

Mr Hill said it was evident to see that mixed year classes has helped with cross year friendships and helps children mix with others. He said that schools within the Trust have different sizes and demographics and that feedback and parents voice is important to help feed into the Trust's Community Committee and through to the Trust Board. He said the Trust's aim for all children to have opportunities across the schools with sport, music, trips, and other events.

Parents discussed how the two schools Ab Kettleby and Somerby have worked together on topics and trips and said it was positive that the children have got to know one another.

Mrs Brown thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for their feedback.

Next Meeting

The next Parent Forum meeting will be arranged in the summer term.

The meeting closed at 10.05am