

Parent Forum Minutes



CHILDREN COME FIRST.

Meeting title:	Ab Kettleby Primary School Parent Forum
Date and time:	Monday 9th May 2023 at 5.00 pm
Location:	Meeting at the school

In attendance	*	Andrea Brown, Headteacher
	*	Tracey King
	*	Helen Lowe
	*	Suzie Skelton
	*	Anna Duval, MET Clerk

Welcome and Introductions

Mrs Brown welcomed parents to the summer term Parent Forum and 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

FOAKS have raised over £13,000 towards the outdoor area. Mrs Brown showed a photo of children using the new outdoor classroom that has been built.

Tesco Communities Project. The school received 3rd place award of £500. This will be used towards the pond area renovation.

Mrs Brown will be speaking to a representative from the Melton by-pass construction team, Galliford Try who is visiting the school tomorrow with a view to funding and providing labour as part of their community work. She said that if the pond remains it will be required to have fencing around it. The area will become a science discovery area with bug and bird houses. Parents said that Melton Country park has a nice sensory area and ideas from that could be used. Mrs Brown said a teacher will be doing forest school training in September.

Mrs Brown said that the school would like a running track and much of the costs involved in developing this is the ground works and the construction team may also be able to assist with this.

Reflecting on our journey since Summer 2021:

Parent feedback then was about the following issues:

Consistency in staff – there was a large turnover, and this has now improved.

Lack of music/arts opportunities - more music and arts is now done.

PTA is now integral for raising money for the school.

Church is key to the community. The school visits the church, and the church gives assemblies in the school and at the church.

Mrs Browns said she felt the school has come a long way in the last two years.

Sumer Term 2023

Year 456 Parents meeting. Mrs Brown said many parents ask questions about the 456 class therefore there will be a meeting for parents on Monday 12th June. It will include the opportunity to meet the class teacher Miss Digioia. All parents of any years can attend.

Parents ask about continuing the consistency of teaching staff. Mrs Brown said that they have learnt that as a small school they are unable to support newly qualified teachers therefore only appoint experienced teachers. Mowbray Education Trust supports the progression of talented teachers across the Trust and have been supportive to this school by giving full time permanent contracts to staff when covering maternity leave places here knowing there can be a continuing role for them Trust wide. This has enabled the school to attract quality teachers.

Continue our work on Tolerance. Mrs Brown said there have been some issues with children when playing football during break times. The children are working towards playing well together and making their football playing rules and making a timetable for who may play.

Year 56 residential 2024. Parent voice asked for alternative years residential for years 5 and 6 children.

Knowledge organisers

Mrs Brown showed an example of the knowledge organisers. At each point in time and in each subject the knowledge organisers show what skills, knowledge, and vocabulary the children will learn and what it builds on that has previously been taught.

Next steps

Food tasting session. The last parent forum parents discussed school meals. The caterers Taylor Shaw will be holding a tasting session at the school for parents and children on Wednesday 24th May at 3:30pm.

Work on positive mental health strategies

Mrs Brown is doing senior mental health lead training. She will be writing a policy. There will be a parent meeting to outline it in the autumn. Staff will be trained at the start of the autumn term. A website link was shown that gives support to parents:

<https://www.abkettleby.org/page/?title=MENTAL+hEALTH+SUPPORT&pid=84>

Feedback From Parent - 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.

- Teacher and parent communication / communication via dojo fast replies.

Mrs Brown said that will be changing the system in the autumn term, but it will be similar to dojo. It will enable all things to be in one app and will allow reminders to be sent.

- Opportunities for children to work across classes and help others during lunchtimes, paired reading, and playground games.

Mrs Brown said the children have loved being part of different classes and helping other children.

- Trips and external to school activities to school offered e.g., sports activities at different settings/ Trips and time outside of the classroom both my children enjoy coming to school and I think all the extra activities apart from the core subjects really help. Mrs Brown sport doing all the extra sporting activities which my children enjoy.

- Finally, 2 good full-time teachers in both Bumble bee and Honey bee classes. I believe experienced teachers are so important when teaching more than 1 year group.

Mrs Brown said she agrees with this.

Feedback from Parents What can we improve?

There were no responses on this occasion.

Parent Questions

- When will we know next year's teachers for all classes?

Mrs Brown said as far as they know at the moment staff will be staying next academic year as the deadline for notices is not until 31st May. Mrs Brown said she is very happy with the team at Ab Kettleby.

- How is the new lunch time routine, the different play areas / quieter zones going?

Mrs Brown said this is going very well and children follow it. She said the next stage is to ensure lunchtime staff allow children time to reflect on their behaviour and come up with their own solutions rather than banning games (such as football).

- Class 3 new year starters
 - How do you deal with bullying issues?

Mrs Brown said this question assumes that bullying comes from the older children eg Y6, but bullying can happen in all year groups. The majority of issues with behaviour that she deals with is general fall outs of children and not bullying. She said there is no evidence of "bullying – targeting one child". She reiterated that if parents feel their child is being targeted, they must inform the school as we do not tolerate this.

The school policy is followed, children have a reflection form, have a conversation with her, and if there are multiple reflection forms parents will be informed.

- How do you make sure and extra needs are transferred over to the new teacher?

There are staff meeting sessions to discuss transition information of children.

- Is there a full-time support person and are they experienced?

Yes, the support staff has been in the class for over 2 years and will be staying.

- Can you tell us some back ground about the new class 3 teacher and is she going to be in class until Mrs Morris comes back from maternity leave as that will be another teacher change halfway through a school year which has been very unsettling for my child when this has happened in previous years.

Mrs Brown said the plan is for the teacher to stay.

Mrs Brown thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 5.40pm