

# Parent Forum Minutes



---

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Meeting title:</b> | <b>Ab Kettleby Parent Forum</b>  |
| <b>Date and time:</b> | <b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 3.30pm</b>  |
| <b>Location:</b>      | <b>Meeting at the school</b>   |
| <b>Parents</b>        | There were no parents that attended the meeting on this occasion however there were some MS Forms responses from parents ahead of the meeting. |
| <b>In attendance</b>  | Andrea Brown, Headteacher<br>Anna Duval, MET Clerk   |

## Welcome and Introductions

A MS Forms was sent to all parents in advance of the meeting to give feedback and raise questions to the parent forum. On this occasion there were no parents planning to attend the meeting. There were 9 responses and these were used to shape discussions.

Mrs Brown explained the rationale of the meetings. They are to provide feedback and suggest improvements, and to help promote positive and effective two-way communication between parents and the Trust. The improvement of children's learning experience is the Forum's clear and consistent goal.

Mrs Brown said at these meetings we will not be discussing items relating to specific pupils, specific parents, or individual staff: this should be discussed one to one with the relevant teacher or Headteacher as appropriate.

## FOAKS Friends of Ab Kettleby School

Mrs Brown thanked FOAKS for the events they hold and for the funds they raise for the school. The next step is to improve the outdoor area of Bumble Bee Class by extending the all-weather cover. Quotes currently underway!

## Summer Term 2023 Review

The meeting for parents regarding Y456 class was well attended and had positive feedback. The school continues our work on tolerance and welcomes our new children who are Asylum Seekers.

The residential Y56 2024 – following Parent Voice – has now been booked!

Taylor Shaw Tasting Session was well attended and again there was positive feedback. The pond area was cleared, helped by Galliford Try.

### **Autumn term focus 2023**

**Pond area.** We need some mulch and the back of the pond needs to be fenced to ensure safety.

**Mental Health Workshop for Parents.** The feedback was positive and more will be offered in the Spring Term.

### **Speech and Language Project NHS – Word Aware**

Mrs Brown said they are working with Ab Kettleby and Grove schools on a speech and language project on an NHS project called Word Aware. Children who are behind in language development at age five are six times less likely to reach the expected standard in English at age eleven, and 11 times less likely to achieve the expected level in maths.

-Mrs Brown said that poor language links to poor mental health and spoke of the importance of reading. Each child is given a book for each year they are at the school. Mrs Brown said that research shows that children (0-5 years old) hear an estimated cumulative 1.4 million more words during storybook reading than children who are never read to.

### **Stay and Play Sessions**

The popularity is increasing! We have had 28 families looking around for an Autumn 2024 start.

### **Subject Leadership Development**

This term the school has scrutinised Geography, Science and History and continue to develop the teaching and learning of subjects.

### **Joint Topics**

The school has joint topics for Y456 and some are joint for Y23 with Somerby. Y456 now have all topics the same for this academic year. This helps with joint planning and joint trips. Year 2/3 are in the process of merging their topics, sharing two for this academic year and again are sharing planning ideas and trip experiences.

**New Learning Logs.** Mrs Brown said the new learning logs are to extending learning outside of the classroom. Each child will be given a range of activities and can complete as many as they would like. Many are simple and therefore all can complete one task.

### **Feedback from Parents: What is Working Well?**

- Everything. Approachable
- Teachers and headteacher. Great communication.
- The communication to the parents is fantastic and accessible. I am continuously amazed and the variety of forms of educating the children. How engaging and warm the whole school is.
- I have to say everything is working well, he is so unbelievably happy at school and I'm genuinely overwhelmed by it all.
- Fantastic communication with parents.

- Great range of experiences and activities on offer.
- Really great celebration of children's achievements.
- Strong emphasis on kindness and treating one another well.
- My child's teacher is very enthusiastic and seems invested in them and knows them well.
- There is a great community spirit, and it seems the older children are really supportive welcoming to the youngsters. He has a great time and is always keen to go into school so he clearly feels happy and settled. I'm happy with all the things he's learning.
- Great communication from school- regular updates on dojo. In comparison to other schools elsewhere- we are kept well informed with easy channels of communication.
- I honestly feel 100% happy with my child's experience at Ab Kettleby. We feel very lucky.
- Continue to do what you're doing. My daughter enjoys going to school and is learning well. You all do a wonderful job.
- I just want to say how happy we are with Ab Kettleby School, from our introduction before he enrolled to today. Communication is fantastic, he has come along in leaps and bounds despite his life being so difficult. The family feel is incredible, from staff and parents. Thank you so much for being so great.
- Inclusivity- including diverse gender/sexuality/race on school materials- love this.
- Our teacher is also really good- very responsive, patient, kind and enthusiastic.
- Hold onto the brilliant staff where possible, high staff turnover can be hard on children and the school. Although staff turnover does seem to have slowed down.

### **Feedback from Parents: What could we improve?**

- Consideration for breakfast clubs

Mrs Brown said the Trust are currently looking into extended provision for all schools in the Trust - we know this is the one thing that is important if we are to maintain our numbers. We are unable to staff it ourselves, due to the small number of adults we have in school – so need an outside provider to be prepared to set up with us.

- It used to be lovely for parents to attend and share in the celebration assemblies on a Friday. Mrs Brown said it would be lovely to share our assemblies with parents however, our school hall can only hold 100 people (staff and children = 75) so not all parents could attend. Teachers only decide on a Friday who is gaining the award so notice will be minimal – Working parents would struggle to attend and we don't want to disappoint children if their parent don't attend due to work commitments. We also love the element of surprise and if children see their parents in the hall, they will know it is their turn!
- Offer all children reasonably similar sporting opportunities regardless of ability where possible.

Over the year, all children from all year groups are involved in a sporting activity of some sort regardless of ability. We don't have the luxury of numbers (like in larger schools) to "select the

best" e.g., if Y5/6 have a football competition then all boys will go - sometimes we take from other year groups if we don't have enough children.

When we enter for a competition, we have the choice of "Excel" group, which are the elite or the "Developer" group – We only ever enter the developer group so children then play children of similar ability so it is fair.

We also aim for the "Spirit of the Games Award" to give children experience of meeting others and we want them to enjoy the experience: Sprit of the Games - Passion, Self-Belief, Respect, Honesty, Determination and Teamwork

- I am concerned that the public nature of the rainbow road could be shaming for children who struggle to regulate their behaviour.

Our policy is based on research based on Tom Bennet who works closely with the government on improving behaviour in schools.

Children love the rainbow road for green, silver and gold.

Children who end up on amber is simply a reminder and it works - if they repeat the behaviour they complete a reflection form – this is gives us time to discuss the triggers (restorative) and ensure teachers support the child moving forward.

As Head, I monitor these reflection forms half termly and monitor for any patterns (time of the day / people involved / days of the week)– and any concerns are picked up immediately – parents / support put in place.

The other children use the amber as a team work to help improve the behaviours and move them back up – teamwork / all working together.

The next Parent Forum will be in the spring term.