

Parent Forum Minutes



Meeting title: Ab Kettleby Parent Forum

Date and time: Monday 28th February 2024 at 9.00am

Location: Meeting at the school

Parents
Tracey King
Helen Musson
Felicity Taylor
Karen Carroll

In attendance
Andrea Brown, Headteacher
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. 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.

Mrs Brown discussed the format of the MS forms and attendance of the parent forums and said one of the aims is to gather suggestions from parents of events and potential visits to places they have connections with and may change the form to try to gather this information

FOAKS Friends of Ab Kettleby School

Mrs Brown thanked FOAKS for the outdoor area of Bumble Bee Class through extending the all-weather cover. It is a much need area for the class and very appreciated.

Autumn Term 2023 Review

Continue our work on Tolerance – “Bullying” and the perception of this.

Mrs Brown said some children get labelled with the term by some without an understanding of what internal issues the child is going through who may need support themselves.

Pond area.

The pond area has been cleared, fenced, and there is a pile of mulch. Mrs Brown thanked Mr Musson for his help with the mulch. The gardening club will be moving the mulch. Mrs Brown said it should be ready to use by the summer term. They have received some donations of bird houses and bug hotels. Next, they would like some wooden seats and tables for the area.

Speech and Language Project

Mrs Brown said they are working with Somerby and Grove schools on a speech and language project NHS project called Word Aware. Every classroom have words up in the classroom and children are encouraged to use the words in their writing during the week. It uses colourful semantic communication where the sentences are built up. It has communication friendly environments that are not too cluttered. Picture prompts are used for words. There is link to a video from the school website for parents to give further information.

Autumn 2024 EYFS New Starters

Mrs Brown said that they have 16 first choice but can only take 11.

New Learning Logs.

Mrs Brown said the use of the new learning logs has been positive. Children can access homework and select their choice at a time to suit them. Mrs Brown said the amount children do varies and that cooking has been popular.

Feedback from Parents: What is Working Well?

- There is a nice caring culture within the school- children are nurtured and supported. Communication is good between staff and parents.
- Friendly teachers and staff. Playgroup is a great way of introducing new children into reception. *Staff* do a fantastic job.
- Great advance notice of events giving parents the opportunity to get things prepared and book time off work if required.
- FOAKS, as always, provides lovely events for the children to look forward to.
- Communication continues to be fantastic - between the office, headteacher and individual teachers, we are kept really well informed both for the essentials, and what the children get up to during the day.
- I am really happy with the focus the school has given to music, and hope this can continue as it is extremely valuable and they all seem to enjoy it so much.

- I'm so impressed with the forestry school provision and varied PE opportunities. I also find the home learning logs and level of home study appropriate for age groups and love the opportunity to be so involved in my child's learning.
- I think the whole school runs fab... communication, engagement, and a great family feel.
- Communication is working well at the moment. although Dojo seems much better than Met app not sure I always see/get the notifications, but as info is thankfully repeated on Dojo, I'm likely to see them.
- Happy with the provision, lots of trips and events to keep the children engaged. My child loves school as every day holds something to look forward to.
- Just keep doing what you're doing!
- Communications are great and well timed to give parents good notice of what's coming up - always appreciated!
- Great variety of school trips either for fun, or educational, for the children.
- Lots of fun elements organised by the school and FOAKS. Also focussing on future plans too rather than short term goals.

Mrs Brown said the school uses Dojo for parent communications and uses Weduc for the school admin.

Feedback from Parents: What could we improve?

- Would a creative writing club be possible/practical? I know the children get a lot of opportunity to write imaginatively during lessons, but some of them enjoy it so much it might be nice to offer some extra time to do it.
- I would love to see more opportunities for after school clubs inclusive of reception. The quality of school dinners is still a stumbling block for our children. I know this has been addressed before and we are in the minority but it's still an issue and I wonder if anyone else experiences that too.
- Opportunity for breakfast/after school club

Mrs Brown said after school clubs are very different to extended school provision. The school does offer after school clubs but not extended provision at this time.

Reception children are invited to clubs but not in the Autumn 1 term or to sporting activities due to staff ratios required and health and safety reasons.

Staff do the clubs in their own time on a voluntary basis.

Children write all day in lessons so they try to offer different activities for them in the clubs.

The trust are aware that there is a need for extended provision in a number of the schools and are trying to find a company that could support this and the county council are also aware of the need across the county.

- The quality of school dinners is still a stumbling block for our children. I know this has been addressed before and we are in the minority but it's still an issue and I wonder if anyone else experiences that too.

The parent taster session gave good feedback. The number of children having school dinners is popular.

A parent elaborated on the feedback and said that their child does not like school versions of meals. Mrs Brown said they tend to not taste the same as home meals as they have rules and regulations about salt and flavourings that can be added and gave an example of macaroni cheese that to adults may taste bland but the children in school love it.

Mrs Brown said there were issues with the meals in the past and the school gave regular feedback to the caterers with photos and since then the meals have improved in quality and quantity.

Admin staff view the choices selected and see what dishes are popular. Mrs Brown said they will speak to the children to gather their voice and ask them what their favourite dishes are.

- I feel the rainbow road is an outdated behaviour system- there is evidence to show that 'shaming' children for bad behaviour such as putting them publicly on amber or red can actually be harmful psychologically. Could we have a visual reward based system and deal the less desirable and negative behaviours in a different way?

Mrs Brown said this was covered in our Autumn Parent Forum. Our policy is based on current 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 as a reward system. Children who end up on amber is a 3rd reminder of the same behaviour! (1st nonverbal warning / 2nd verbal warning)

If they repeat the behaviour for a 4th time, they complete a reflection form – this gives us time to discuss the triggers (restorative) and ensure teachers support the child moving forward.

Mrs Brown monitors 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.

- Will there be a summer holiday camp? If so, do we know when this is likely to be please?
- Mrs Brown said that there will be a summer holiday camp and dates will follow.

Library bus

Parents said the library bus visits the village once a month.

Mrs Brown said she has been trying to contact them with a view to the children visiting it.

The meeting end at 9:33

The next Parent Forum will be in the summer term.