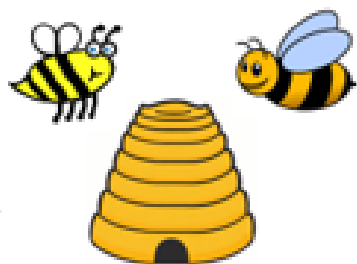


Parent Forum Minutes



Meeting title: Ab Kettleby Parent Forum

Date and time: Monday 9th June 2025 at 3.15pm

Location: Meeting at the school

Parents
Felicity Taylor
Tracey King
Helen Lowe
Ben Dyer
Helen Musson

In attendance
Andrea Brown, Headteacher
Anna Duval, MET Clerk

Welcome and Introductions

Mrs Brown welcomed everyone to the Parent Forum meeting and said parents' views are important to the school and Trust. 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 17 responses and these were used to shape discussions.

The rationale of the meeting was explained. 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.

Parent Forum meetings 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.

Summary of 2024/2025

FOAKS

Friends of Ab Kettleby School (FOAKS) is the PTA committee that organises events and raises funds for the school.

FOAKS are currently fundraising for an all-weather school running track and have 45% of the target.

The all-weather running track will enable the school field to be used throughout the year.

Autumn 2025 EYFS

The new year intake in EYFS is full. All year groups from EYFS to year 3 are full. There are only 5 spaces left in whole school.

New class teacher

The new teacher has already attended planning days and will attend transition days.

Clubs Complete

Mrs Brown described some issues with Clubs Complete wraparound care. Clubs Complete started at Ab Kettleby and Somerby in February 2025. There have been a number of issues in the provision and service that has made it necessary to remove the provision from 10th July.

There will be school led after school clubs from August 2025. Urban movement will offer some clubs and others will be offered through school staff. There will not be a breakfast club.

Mrs Brown said there is a potential to look again in 2025/26 for Wraparound care and are in discussions with Urban movement and the county council to find a solution.

School Development Plan

Writing Focus

Mrs Brown said that writing is a Trustwide focus. It follows reading that was the previous Trustwide focus. Staff are receiving quality writing training to look at improvements. Mrs Brown said they want children to be as fluent in writing as reading and be enthusiastic and passionate about writing.

Assessment of foundation subjects.

Mrs Brown said they are looking at how the foundation subjects (subjects other than Maths, English and Science) are assessed to test children's progress.

Arts mark award

The school is working towards the Arts mark award over the next 18 months. The school has already obtained the Mental Health, Sports and Healthy School awards.

Forest School Provision – Ab Kettleby

The Reception/ Year 1 class teacher at Ab Kettleby has completed their forest school teacher training. A forest school area has been developed in the school grounds at Ab Kettleby. Somerby Reception / Year 1 children will be visiting Ab Kettleby to use the forest school provision. The longer plan is for all years to use the forest school.

Trust Updates:

A new CEO Louse Lee has been appointed to the Trust and started at the beginning of the summer term and will visit all the schools.

New Catering Contract from August

Mrs Brown said the catering contract has come to an end and a new catering contract was tendered. The provision will remain the same with meals being cooked at Brownlow and delivered to Ab Kettleby.

Estates Support

Mrs Brown said there has been a new front door and side gate.

In 25/26 the front driveway will be resurfaces and the boys' toilets will be replaced.

Parent governor opportunities

Mrs Duval said that Ab Kettleby is one of the schools in Melton Mowbray Trust and explained the governance structure. There are opportunities for parents to become a governor in one of the three local governing committees: the Performance Committee, the Curriculum Committee and the Community Committee. If any parents are interested in finding out more about the role of the parent governor or is interested in becoming a parent governor please ask the school to share your contact details with the Governance Manager.

Feedback from Parents: What is Working Well?

- Communication from the office and teachers is brilliant
- Communication between school & parents The blending of classes, and the blending of age groups at lunch time - this always helps to ensure that the littlest are looked after by some of the older children. Giving them confidence and making sure they always have someone to go to.
- The family feel of the school, all children and staff know each other well. Great relationships are built throughout the years, and everyone helps everyone.
- My child is happy at school which is all that really matters
- Communication from the school Office and individual teachers continues to work really well.
- Arthur always enjoys attending school, and we value the great community spirit which is fostered there. All the older children seem to take care of the younger ones and celebrate each other well.
- Great links between age groups within the school, the children mix well and are younger children are nurtured and supported by older year groups - Dojo communication with teachers works really well, it is fast and efficient - the children take pride in their school and are taught good values - Teachers try hard to enrich the learning environment grouch activities and trips
- Parent teacher communication, family feel, communication of curriculum
- Everything! School team all work so hard and are so engaging and really go over and above It's our first year as parents at the school and we are very grateful to have our girls in such a great environment.
- Happy with the curriculum. Good communication through the different channels.

- Mixed year class. All children getting opportunities to attend sporting events. Interaction with other classes where older children lead activities for the younger children and shared reading etc.
- Teachers are all great Approachable teachers and head
- Lovely class Miss Bray and Mrs gent do a fabulous job Forest school is very enjoyable for the children.
- Generally everything seems to work well and no complaints.
- Strong teaching staff and collaborate well together. Opportunity for sporting events and access to field during breaks is great.
- On the whole, what a lovely school and I'm happy my child attends. My child goes to school happy, and comes home happy so I can't ask for more than that
- I'm so impressed with the school and FOAKS and always sing its praises, I would take a lack of face to face feedback as a sign of similar satisfaction.
- Thanks for the loving and positive environment for our child. We wish you continued success in what you are developing an already outstanding school

Feedback from Parents: What could we improve?

- Forest School for older children.

Mrs Brown said the teacher has just finished her training and the plan is to expand the provision to all school years.

- Provision for neuro diverse children, diet knowledge and understanding of conditions children have in order to best support them.

Mrs Brown said that once they are aware of a child's need they will get advice from the SENCO to get the specific training needed.

- It's a shame about Club Complete but appreciate a different approach has been tried and understand this is no fault of the school.
- I would like to know if clubs complete will be continuing in the next school year. If it isn't will other after school care be offered or the after school clubs starting again.
- Affordable after school club opportunities.

Clubs complete was discussed above.

- Lunches.. quality of even jacket potatoes seems to have gone down?

Mrs Brown said food quality has not decreased and the cook who brings the food from Brownlow ensures children have ample food and the school staff and the admin review it daily. The catering company are informed of any concerns. As discussed above a new catering company starts in the autumn term.

- Helping encourage good table manners at school mealtimes. Maybe the older children could play a part in this. Obviously this starts at home ideally but when they eat 5 meals a week at school it all helps.

Mrs Brown said yes however table manners should start in the home. There are monitors at each table and rules are in place that children must follow.

- It would be nice if there could be a school choir again. The children get a lot out of the musical opportunities that have been offered

Mrs Brown would like the choir to run next year. This will depend on staff availability.

- Children are praised and are successful within the school for conforming, I would like to see more celebration of children who are different and maybe don't conform to conventional standards. I understand rules need to be followed but I feel there is a lack of celebration of diversity within the school.

Mrs Brown said they celebrate children for lots of things and is unsure what the comment is about. She would be welcome to speak to the parent further.

- Children in honey bees do not have the opportunity to take part in performing arts (no Christmas performance or end of term performance). I would like to see the performing arts expanded particularly for this subset of children.

Mrs Brown said Reception/Year 1 do a Christmas performance. Years 4/5/6 do a leavers show. Honey Bees class of years 2/3 do not do a performance. All years do a performance at the church. Mrs Brown said children do performances 5 out of the 7 years at school. It is time out of the curriculum and it is about hall space. Mrs Brown will put the idea of a performance to the staff.

- Access to music lessons for younger children.

Mrs Brown said that children are taught the ocarina and then the recorder in years 2/3.

Leicestershire music services teach years 4/5/6 brass, percussion and guitar lessons. Mrs Brown said that if there are younger children with music interest it may be possible to arrange 1 to 1 lessons.

- Daily boost/daily mile activities seem to have gone away and it would be good to see them make a return.

Mrs Brown said the school doesn't do a daily mile but does a 2k challenge to prepare for cross county in the autumn in addition to 15mins activity or brain breaks that could be split between lessons into 5 minutes 3 times a day.

- More advance notice of spellings for the week and a spellings book perhaps. Instead of tricky works can children focus on words they would actually use for their age on a regular basis perhaps e.g. days of week, months etc.

Mrs Brown said the national curriculum dictates the words that are used for spellings based on phonics.

- When it comes to school holidays and bank holidays we can end up reading the same book multiple times. Can perhaps two phonics books be issued as children seem to memorise just the one?

Mrs Brown said years reception and year 1 have phonic books and that after they have read the book she suggested reading other books for pleasure.

- Perhaps more regular update on performance by way of the app in necessary every 4 weeks way. On track or more reading / maths, etc.
- Think preparation of year 6 pupils for SATS is too focused on taking mock tests in the year. Four mock SATS is too much. Specific info to parents on gaps so home support would be better use of time.

Mrs Brown said children are assessed 3 times a year from year 2 onwards. Year 1 are tested twice. This enables the curriculum to be taught, consolidated, identify gaps, and teach the gaps. Year 6 children have 4 assessments to prepare for SATs. Half of the SATS papers cover years 3/4/5 curriculum and assessments helps identify gaps. This year some year 3 questions needed further work and these were sent home for practice. It helps prepare the children and give them confidence in the SATs

- I understand that the children enjoy playing with the equipment at the side of the playground but it has started to look quite messy and untidy and I don't think it is a very good advert for the school for anyone passing by who sees it.

Mrs Brown said sometimes playtime is only 15minutes and it makes it easily accessible but will look at options for storage. Children are very imaginative when they play with the equipment.

- Can football at break times be restricted perhaps or monitored closer?. It seems to cause a lot of issues between the boys.

Mrs Brown said that it is monitored with the staff and usually the children play well.

- Keep a closer eye on individuals being excluded from play in by cliques or individuals.

Mrs Brown urge children to talk to staff; there is a buddy bench and a worry box.

If parents are concerned please talk to the school.

Other items discussed

MCAS

Parents said questions have been given to school admin staff about issues they are experiencing with the app. Including not being able to record absences and the notification being one long feed.

Parent said they are not able to see what meal choice their child has picked.

The meeting ended at 4:20pm

