



April 2025

Spring Term Round Up!

With the Spring Term about to come to an end, I cannot believe I am nearing 4 years at the two fabulous village schools. I read from time to time some issues other Headteachers, across the UK, deal with on a daily basis with poor behaviours and poor attendance of children and staff and it reminds me just how lucky I am to be leading two amazing schools, filled with fabulous children, supportive families and working with such a strong, dedicated team of which none of this would be achievable without them.

So as we finish off the last few days of term, I would like to update or remind families of the following areas:

Mental Health

Supporting children's positive mental health continues to be high on our agenda. Negative interactions between adults and children can result in children feeling unworthy or unloved, leading to low self-esteem and self-worth issues. Children may exhibit increased aggression, defiance, or withdrawal as a response. Excessive screen time can also lead to problems in children's emotional development, leading to aggressive behaviours or withdrawal. From time to time at school, we notice changes in a child's mood which then affects their ability to concentrate and learn. This may be as a result of an argument in the family home or online gaming being played before school.

Research shows that low self-esteem is consistently linked with low academic performance, therefore it is important, as adults, we help boost children's self-esteem. There are many things we can do to boost self-esteem, such as teaching children a new skill, and the holidays are a great time to do this. Children need to feel proud of their achievements; praise their efforts however small and let them know how important they are to you. We have a dedicated page on our website, supporting Mental Health, with helpful links to support parents further:

<https://www.somerby.org.uk/page/?title=Mental+health+support&pid=75>



Part of Mowbray Education Trust

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Behaviour Boost / Uniform

We are very proud of our behaviours at Somerby Primary School; children are very proud of their school; respectful and caring to others and polite to visitors and those around them. This doesn't come without hard work, positive reinforcement, consistency and daily reminders of expectations. One of our school rules is "Taking Pride" of ourselves and our environment and this time of year we can see a slip in uniform expectations. Please help support this by ensuring your children are wearing the correct uniform - paying particular attention to shoes, socks, hair accessories, nail varnish and jewellery. PE will take place outside on dry days so please ensure an appropriate hoody is worn on those colder days. Full uniform details can be found on our website at <https://www.somerby.org.uk/page/?title=School+Uniform&pid=39>

Attendance and Lateness

Can I politely remind parents that the school gates open at 8:30am and learning starts immediately. There are a small number of children who regularly arrive just as the gate closes at 8:45am and due to the time it takes to sort out their belongings they can lose up to 25 minutes of valuable learning per day - this can amount to over two weeks of learning time lost over an academic year! I appreciate from time to time the traffic causes delays but try where possible to arrive in good time for the start of the day.

Environment Update

We have been supported by the Trust recently with some internal works, caused by a leaking gutter. The gutter has now been replaced, the internal wall has been plastered and we are waiting for a date when the dining room, hall, stairs and landing will be decorated, to make us look smart once again. The next set of planned works is to replace the field fencing which, over time, has rotted in certain areas.

FOSS

Our FOSS team have worked hard this year to help support our school income. The Friday tuckshop has proved incredibly popular and lucrative, with over £750 being raised since the start of this. Thank you so much to families who support this either by baking good to sell or buying the goods on sale! Thank you also to Rosie and her team for making this happen.

Laura Buckenham is in full organisational mode for her Clay Pigeon Shoot which will take place on Sunday 25th May. The event includes a number of outside stall holders, tombola and food. It will be a fabulous day out for families to attend and she is kindly donating part of the profits made to our school. Louise is also looking for helpers to support the tombola and food stalls, so please offer if you can, even if it for an hour. Your support is appreciated.

Parent Forum

Parent voice is important to us to help keep standards and expectations high. We have trialled different approaches this year to gain this and the next opportunity will be a face-to-face Parent Forum on Thursday 5th June at 3pm. This will give parents the opportunity to find out what we are working on behind the scenes and offer any suggestions where needed. We will support with looking after younger siblings so as many of our parents can attend as possible. Further information will be sent out in due course.

Clubs Complete

We are working with Clubs Complete to try and improve the provision being offered to our children for wraparound care and to increase the interest. As part of this improvement plan, Clubs Complete are offering access to the Activity Club (3pm-4pm) from Monday 28th April to Friday 2nd May, free of charge. If you are interested in booking a place, book via the website using the discount code: SPS100TS

Please note, you can book up to three hours before a club starts. At the three-hour cut off point, the website will automatically prevent further bookings. In an emergency situation, if you need the service within three hours of the start, you are required to call the Clubs Complete office.

Forest School - Willow

Miss Bray, our EYFS/Y1 teacher at Ab Kettleby is now a trained Forest School Leader. Forest School is a nature-based learning approach that uses woodland or natural environments as a classroom, promoting holistic development through child-led exploration and play. Ab Kettleby Primary School is very lucky to have the perfect grounds for this, including a wooded and pond area, and over the last year as part of her training, Miss Bray has developed the grounds for exactly this purpose. We would like to give the children in Willow Class the opportunity to join this learning and over the summer term children will visit Ab Kettleby on a couple of mornings to introduce them to the school and the area. This will then continue into the new academic year.

Summer 2025 Dates

The summer term is nearly upon us and it is full of the usual end of year events, including class photos, Residential, EYFS home-visits, Sports' Day, transition and much much more! An updated events calendar is attached to this letter for your information.

So, as the end of the Spring term comes to a close, I wish you a very happy Easter and I look forward to welcoming our children back for our summer term on Monday 28th April 2025.

Andrea Brown
Headteacher