



Somerby Primary School



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Working in partnership: Ab Kettleby and Somerby Primary Schools

July 2022

Summer Term Round Up!

Dear parents and carers,

I have to pinch myself from time to time when I think I have been Head at Somerby Primary School now for a whole academic year. We have gone through so much, have achieved so much in one year, and I am so incredibly proud of our team. I am excited to see the school continue to move forward as we move into the new academic year. Last night's end of year show sums up our school: the smiles, the friendships, the teamwork, the confidence, the support and a group of amazing children we are very proud of.

We have improved our social media presence with Twitter and Facebook and have been able to share with the wider community the amazing opportunities we offer our children. Alongside this, we have been able to attract 2 new families to our small but mighty school as well as welcoming a younger sibling from our existing family for our Autumn new starters. Mrs Hickton has met our new starters in their own homes; visited children at Knossington and Somerby Preschool and we welcomed them for their first stay and play sessions too here at school. We are starting to build the invaluable relationship needed to help the transition to school go smoothly for children and parents and we can't wait to get to know our new families in the new academic year.

Transition Y6

We are preparing to say a fond farewell to our amazing Year 6 team as they move onto their next stage of their life in secondary school. They are a fantastic group of individuals who leave with strong values and I have no doubt they will be a credit to their new school and make us all proud.

I know there will be some tears shed as we wave our Year 6 team off, but I hope each and every one of them keep in touch and let us know how they are getting on!

We still have our Leavers' Assembly on the last day of term is still to look forward to and this will give us all a chance to reflect on their time with us and wave them off in style.

Staff Goodbyes

At the end of this academic year, we are not only saying goodbye to our Y6 children, but also saying goodbye to a number of amazing staff who have been an integral part of our small but mighty team this year.

- Mr De Gaye is leaving us to spend more time with his family and to concentrate on tutoring.
- Miss Harrison has secured a permanent teaching contract in a school closer to her home.
- Mrs Hadingham has secured a full time Teacher Assistant role at Brownlow.



- Mrs Lee is returning from her maternity leave in October, but will not be returning to Somerby. I am however, delighted she is returning to Ab Kettelby after October half term to cover management and planning time.
- Mrs Dolman is leaving us as she is moving away from the area.
- Mrs Jones has secured a permanent contract as a Teacher Assistant at The Grove.

I wish them all luck as they move onto their next venture and my heartfelt thanks go to all of them for the hard work and support they have given to children at Somerby over the years. Please feel free to pop in next week to say your goodbyes.

New Staffing Structure 2022/23

OAK - Year 4,5,6

We are delighted to be welcoming our new Lead Teacher for Somerby Primary School, Mrs Rachel Sida, who will lead Oak Class. Mrs Sida will be supported by Mrs Allen and Mr Hyde, full time Teacher Assistants, in Oak Class.

ASH - Year 2,3

We are equally delighted to be welcoming Miss Miller, who will be our new full time class teacher in Ash Class.

WILLOW - EYFS,Y1

Mrs Hickton will continue to teach in Willow Class and we welcome our new Teacher Assistant, Miss Robertson, who will support our youngest children in Willow.

Mrs Togill will support all our of our classes from August, covering the teachers when they have their planning and preparation time.

Our new teachers will be in school on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th July to meet their new class. During this time, teachers who are leaving will have quality time with our new teachers to pass all relevant information over to ensure a smooth transition. At 3pm on Monday and Tuesday you will have the chance to meet Mrs Sida, Miss Miller and Miss Robertson and come and say hello. I am sure you will all make our two newest recruits very welcome!

SENCO

As you are also aware, we are also losing Mrs Fryer for year while she adds to her family! Mrs Donna Chapman, who is currently the SENCO at The Grove Primary School, will be covering Mrs Fryer's SENCO role at Ab Kettleby in her absence. Mrs Chapman has had 8 years teaching experience and has previously been the head of a SEN unit. She has a Masters in Special Needs and Inclusion and has completed her SENCO Award Qualification. We are very lucky to have her joining our team, one day a week, to support children with Special Educational Needs.

Roof Repairs

Hopefully you have received my recent letter informing you of the works to be carried out on the roof. Last month, we were informed that the grant for this work has been successful and therefore work will start on Monday 11th July and will continue during the summer holidays until around October. At last, we won't need to worry about slipping roof tiles! Please make sure you read the letter I sent out regarding this if you haven't already. Entry to the school will be from the gate to the left of the school, in the new academic year, until the work is completed.

Music Provision Autumn Y4,5,6

I have managed to secure music provision for the Autumn Term for Children in Oak Class. One afternoon per week, Oak children will receive tuition of a brass instrument, from September to December. Following this, parents will be given the opportunity to pay separately for small group or 1:1 tuition if your child wishes to develop the skill of playing the instrument further. The plan is that each Autumn term a new instrument will be introduced, giving children the opportunity to enjoy 3 different instruments over the time they are in Oak. Further details of paid tuition will follow in the Autumn term.

FOSS

Thank you to our parents who continue to organise fundraising events for children. This money really does make such a difference to us as a school, and recently, due to the generosity of FOSS, we have been able to buy a number of new books to help improve our library area and offer books which inspire our children to read more, linked to our topics. My heartfelt thanks go to all those who have contributed over the year, however small: it all adds up. If any parent would like to be involved in organising activities with FOSS, please let me know.

Behaviour and Uniform Policy

Our priority, in the new academic year, is to get routines and expectations established as quickly as possible to help all children settle after the summer break and feel secure. We are looking forward to building on our exemplary behaviour and attitudes. Please take time to refamiliarize yourselves with our behaviour policy and uniform expectations, which can be found on our website. In the new year, children can come to school in their PE kits on PE days as usual, and as this will form children's uniform one day per week, the expectations to wear the correct PE uniform is just as important. Please label all belongings to avoid it being lost.

Friends of the Tenth - PE T-Shirt

Friends of the Tenth have kindly offered to donate a whole new set of PE T-Shirts for all children in September. They are placing an order over the summer and I will distribute these once they arrive. We are very grateful to the continued collaboration we have with Friends of the Tenth.

Parent Feedback

Feedback continues to be positive via our Parent Forum meetings. I am always willing to take ideas, suggestions and solutions to help improve the provision we can offer our children. Please don't wait until these meetings - if you have an idea - please do share!

Autumn Dates 2022

We are currently putting together dates for the new academic year and we will send these out in good time for the start of the Autumn Term.

The Queen's Jubilee 2022

What a fantastic way to end a term, celebrating 70 years of our Queen, something none of us are likely to witness again in our lives. Watching our children come together as a Choir in June at the park, singing their hearts out to a song created by children from our Trust was certainly a highlight for me. We are hoping to continue with a school choir and Trust choir in the new year, so watch this space!

With only a few days of the term left, I wish you all a super summer break and I hope the sun shines. Our first day of the new academic year is Tuesday 30th August - we can't wait to see you all then with news from your summer!

Thank you for your continued support with our small but mighty school!

Andrea Brown
Headteacher