



Somerby Primary School



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Working in partnership: Ab Kettleby and Somerby Primary Schools

April 2022

Spring Term Round Up!

Dear Parents & Carers,

We have had a fabulous spring term and I am amazed at just how fast it has gone. The children have been a real pleasure to be around.

I watch the older children with pride as they support our youngest members of the school. At lunchtimes our newly appointed monitors help our youngest cut up their food; make sure they have a drink; help clear up and simply engage them in conversation. At breaktimes they play together and watch out for each other. Somerby Primary School really is a special place for children learn and develop as an individual.

Behaviour Boosts

During the first week of each half term, we focus on our Behaviour Boost. The boost in January was self-regulation when no one is watching. This is the hardest part of our day! It is easy to behave well when others are around or when teachers are watching but it easy to slip into bad habits when we are on our own: no-one to stop us running to the toilet, scribbling on a book or being unkind to someone. During the Behaviour Boost week, we spend a great deal of time discussing these situations and their impact. Whenever a child chooses not to following the school rules, we always go back to this - what impact has your behaviour had on others and what better choice should have been made?

The Behaviour Boost after February half term concentrated on the “A” of SLANT: to ask questions. We want children to be inquisitive about the world they live in and we wanted to encourage them to ask questions to deepen their understanding. When children read a book they may come across a word they have never heard of or at the start a new topic we don’t just want them to take in the facts given to them by the teacher - we want them to ask more questions! “What does that word mean?”, “Why did the Romans do that?” etc. Each classroom now have a “Question Board” and children can write their question on the board at any point in the day. Teachers then make time to discuss these questions and find out the answers together.

Mental Health

Mental health continues to be a focus for us at Somerby. Helping children deal with their emotions is a daily routine but we are also teaching children ways of keeping a healthy mind. Each Friday afternoon we cover a range of activities to promote mindfulness - yoga, mindful breathing, mindful colouring or simply go and lie down and watch the clouds up above us. We also spent time discussing sentence starters children could use if they see children struggling eg “I see you don’t seem your usual self, can I help you?”.



Mrs Fryer

Although we are overjoyed to share with you that Mrs Fryer is expecting this does mean she will be leaving us at the end of the academic year to start maternity leave. Mrs Fryer's SENCO role will be supported for the year by the SENCO at The Grove and Mrs Fryer will be working over the summer term to ensure a smooth handover is in place. Mrs Fryer is not disappearing and will still be supporting us from a distance!

New Lead Teacher - Oak Class

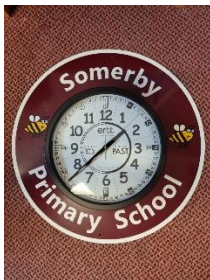
We have spent last week interviewing for a new lead teacher for Somerby and class teacher for Oak. I am delighted to be welcoming Mrs Sida, who will join our Somerby team in August. Mrs Sida has been teaching for 20 years and is currently a Year 5 and Year 6 teacher and I know she will be an asset to our small but mighty team and will be pivotal in helping me to continue to move the school from strength to strength. Parents and children will get an opportunity to meet Mrs Sida in the coming months.

Ukraine

Of course this term has been over shadowed by the atrocity that we have seen unfold in Ukraine. This has raised lots of questions and uncertainty from the children. We try our best to answer these and check in regularly with them. Thanks go to all parents who donated so many amazing items: clothes, first aid, toiletries, baby items and so much more. I am sure those who receive these items will be truly grateful.

FOSS

Our parent community is priceless to us as a school and fundraising activities bring in money to pay for resources we could not otherwise afford. Previous fundraising efforts have meant that FOSS have provided us with new outdoor seating and a fabulous, personalised clock. The children absolutely love this and enjoy chatting or playing games during their break.



Parents who run FOSS on a voluntary basis, have lots of ideas for forthcoming events, such as cake sales, summer fetes etc, but cannot do this on their own and would love any support parents can give - however small.

Parent Feedback

Parents have many opportunities to feedback as to how we can improve our school, such as parent forum meetings, or simply through Class Dojo. We value your feedback and really do listen! A number of parents requested face to face parents' evenings for the spring term and longer than 8 minutes! This has happened this week and it was great to see so many parents attend.

Parents also asked if we could offer open mornings. Covid was responsible for us having to postpone this again in January but again, we were delighted to offer the chance for parents to finally join lessons last month. Feedback was excellent and we will certainly be looking to do this again in the summer term.

Please continue to feedback your ideas - we love to hear your thoughts.

Our Environment

We are starting our spring clean campaign in and around our school to smarten things up a bit! During the last few months, we have developed our outside learning area for Willow; purchased a new school sign and gate, cleared the moss off the front of the school and over the coming months we will continue to make the environment a place to be proud of.

Summer Dates 2022

Summer dates have been planned and can be found in the Key Dates area on the school website. There are still some last minute dates to be confirmed, but as soon as we know more will keep you updated. Letters with more detail about each event will be sent out nearer the time.

The Wider Community

We are excited to have been offered the opportunity to be creative for the Queen's Jubilee with an amazing prize for the winning family of Oak, courtesy of Stapleford Hall. We have also enjoyed visits from the Fire Service too this term. If parents know of other community activities which you feel would benefit our children, please do let me know.

So, as the end of my second 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.

Andrea Brown

Headteacher

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