



December 2023

Autumn Term Roundup

Dear parents and carers,

As we near the end of what feels like the longest, busiest, yet quickest term ever, I just want to take this opportunity to reflect over the weeks since August.

FOSS

Thank you to our FOSS team for organising events in order to donate invaluable funds to our small but mighty school.

FOSS events are so worthwhile for many reasons:

- Fundraising - school budgets are tight and luxuries, such as a new library or buses to pantomimes are all things we cannot afford to buy.
- Memories - these events are loved by all children (and families!).
- Community Spirit - the bringing together of our families is important to us, and these events are perfect for doing this. Without our families supporting these events, they wouldn't be as lucrative - so thank you to all who contribute - however small.

Our children love events like this, so if any families would like to offer an idea or a group of parents would like to organise a fundraising event, we would be very grateful. Something as simple as a cake sale, cake raffle, tombola raffle all help to keep bringing in the extra cash! As a school, we would work alongside you to help promote the event - please do get in touch.

Arts in School

One of the reasons we are able to attend so many events outside of school is due to funding we gain from FOSS events to pay for such things like transport - which has become so much more expensive over recent months. Subsidising trips helps to keep the cost down for all families.

In this term alone, we have attended a number of events and have many more planned for 2024. We welcomed back Kathryn Saunby Art Studio; Hayley from Iveshead to enjoy Drama in the curriculum; children in Oak have enjoyed learning to play the guitar and all our children will enjoy a well-earned Christmas trip to the Pantomime, together with their friends from Ab Kettleby Primary School.



Part of Mowbray Education Trust

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Children First

Friends of the Tenth

Children from our school represented FOTT memorial and Remembrance Day again this year, and children in Oak Class enjoyed our World War Day around Somerby, supported by FOTT. It is so important to keep this relationship strong and we look forward to working alongside them again in 2024.

Sport

Mrs Brown (Sporty not Head!) continues to provide a range of sporting opportunities for all our children, from tennis, gymnastics, karate and golf, to name but a few, as well as training up our Play Leaders who support other children in our school with activities during lunch break. She also organises training and development opportunities for our staff, across both Ab Kettleby and Somerby Primary School. We are incredibly proud of our sporting achievements and that is down to Mrs Sporty Brown's continued efforts.

Staffing

Mrs Toghill, as you know, left early 2023 on maternity leave and we are delighted she will return to us in February 2024. She has been popping in to do some supply work for us this term and it is lovely to have her back.

Mrs Burdett will be joining us as from January 2024 to support in Willow Class, replacing Miss Robertson. Mrs Burdett has had many years of experience working with early years and pre-school children and I am sure you will all warmly welcome her to our team.

Children in Oak Class will be joined by a student teacher from January until February half term. Mrs Simmons started her training at Brownlow in August and will gain further experience with us for the 6 weeks to half term, before returning back to Brownlow to complete her training in July. I am sure she will love her time with us.

Spring 2024 Dates

I have updated and attached the Spring and Summer dates for your information. Further details will be sent about each event closer to the time.

2023 Reflections

As we near the end of our Autumn Term, I would like to thank my amazing team for their daily efforts, for the high expectations they have of our children and for the care they offer children and to each other. They make my role as Headteacher an absolute pleasure.

Thank you also to the continued support of our families who help to make our small school so mighty.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Andrea Brown
Headteacher