



Somerby Primary School



Somerby Primary School
High Street
Somerby
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire
LE14 2PZ
01664 504888
admin@somerby.org.uk
www.somerby.org.uk
Executive headteacher: Andrea Brown

Working in partnership: Ab Kettleby and Somerby Primary Schools

March 2024

Spring Term Round Up!

Dear parents and carers,

This is probably the quickest term so far! It has been a real pleasure to watch our children enjoy their learning: The children in Oak have gone back to the Roman times, ending their topic this term at Rushcliffe Country Park and children in Ash have been designing their own mythical creatures, and using AI have brought them to life, and some were really scary! Children in Willow have been learning all about dinosaurs, finding a dinosaur egg in our school and watching the actual dinosaur mummy on our security camera! Amazing!

Learning Logs

We have thoroughly enjoyed reading children's Learning Logs since we introduced them and thank you to parents for supporting home learning. It has been fabulous to see their creations. Some examples include: Roman Rocky Road, a fully working Lego aqueduct, a Roman Mosaics, a fruit salad made with dragon fruit, some carefully sketched rain forests and a poster, to name but a few. Children have loved their topics this term and extending their learning to home to share their learning with families is fabulous.

Curriculum - next steps

We have continued to work hard behind the scenes to continue to develop our curriculum. Miss Miller has been working alongside Mr Dash (Year 2/Year 3 teacher at Ab Kettleby) to align some of their topics. This work will continue over the coming months so they can share topics, share ideas and resources and share some joint trips too. This year, Mrs Sida and children in Oak have enjoyed sharing all of their topics with Ab Kettleby children in Y456 and have already seen many benefits of this. It also helps us to moderate between the two schools to ensure high expectations are being met across all children. Developing the curriculum is an ongoing process as we reflect each term on the learning and readjust as and when necessary to ensure children build on the key skills and knowledge, learning more and remember more.

Mental Health

As you know, mental health remains high on our agenda. Supporting children to notice changes in their moods and notice how this makes them feel is important. So many every day events can change a child's mood: parents arguing; feeling unwell; bereavement; transition to new class or new school; overhearing adult worries, to name but a few! We have many ways of supporting our children and share strategies with them to help keep mentally healthy. The most basic of strategies are shared during our Feel Good Friday. This may be as simple as listening to calming music, drawing, sharing a book or game with a friend or just spending time noticing our breathing. If we feel a child needs a bit more support, we refer them to Mrs Allen and would give them a number of ELSA sessions (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant).



Part of Mowbray Education Trust

Mowbray Education Trust, c/o John Femeley College, Scalford Road,
Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE13 1LH
01664 565901 info@mowbrayeducation.org www.mowbrayeducation.org

Children First

The next stage may be to give children some time with Miss Charlton who works with children across the Trust as a Wellbeing Practitioner, basing her work around Yoga. Following this, we have a range of outside agencies we can refer children and families too for further support if needed.

This term we have worked with RELATE who have given children further support on how to improve their emotional resilience, including the early warning signs of anxiety, mindfulness, coping strategies & resources. It is so important families take time to learn these strategies alongside their child and encourage using what they have learnt in times of stress.



When children are low or are overwhelmed, it can be hard to know how to cope and distracting yourself can help you feel better. Just doing one positive thing every day, can help your mood.

Here is an example of a strategy - Mood Boost Bingo. Tick off as you do one of these activities and give yourself a reward once you complete a line or the full set.

If you need further support in this area, please come and speak to me.

Behaviour Boosts

As you are aware, at the beginning of each half term we refocus on our behaviour, celebrating the positive behaviours we are proud of and refining those behaviours we need to improve on. Children at Somerby Primary School are incredibly well behaved so after Easter we have decided to focus on one of our values, to be resourceful. At times, children rely heavily on adults in the room to “solve” their problems rather than being resourceful (“My pen has stopped working”, “My pencil has broken”) or relies on an adult to intervene in a working problem when it becomes too tricky, rather than being resourceful and finding a solution to this independently (use what you know, use the working wall, look back in your book). Being resourceful is a life-skill: children need to trust their instincts and unique ability to develop a positive attitude towards problem solving. Resourceful children mature into confident and hardworking adults.

Uniform

One of our School Values is to take pride in our school and our environment, and I would like to remind parents of our school uniform policy. We are getting a few “anomalies” creeping in again, including holiday bracelets; hair accessories; socks and logo trainers on non-PE days.

As a reminder, the link to our uniform can be found here:

<https://www.somerby.org.uk/page/?title=School+Uniform&pid=39>

Staffing

As you know, Mrs Fryer has been covering Ash Class and Oak Class, covering teachers’ planning afternoons, while Mrs Toghill has been on Maternity Leave. Now that Mrs Toghill has returned, Mrs Fryer will be moving to Sherard Primary School after Easter to support their Year 1 team. We have enjoyed having Mrs Fryer with us for the short time she has been with us and wish her well as she moves into her new, more permanent role.

FOSS

FOSS are in the throws of planning some events for our children to enjoy. This started with Tuck Shop Friday, an Easter Egg Raffle and there are plans for a leavers' disco and a potential dog walk to still enjoy. These events are so important to us as a school, as it helps to raise money for non-curriculum items that our school budget simply cannot afford. As you know, we have benefited hugely from FOSS financially, for example our lovely library area would not have been possible without them. The next purchase we would really like to install is an outdoor Reading Pod - a place where children can sit, protected from the elements, to reflect, read or simply sit and listen to the world around them. Thank you to all our families who support these events - every penny counts!

Some of our families have offered to bake some cakes/cookies each week to sell at the Tuck Shop, but we really need more! If anyone else (even grandparents!) is willing to be added to the list of bakers, please do let me know.

New Starters 2024

We are delighted to be welcoming a new Year 1 child into our small but mighty team after Easter. I am sure you will join me in making her feel very welcome! In April, we will find out the families who will be joining our EYFS team in the autumn term. As soon as we have this information, we will be in touch with dates to ease the transition for them.

Parent Forum

Parent voice is so important for a school. Parents are key partners in children's education and your support and involvement matters. In fact, by parents being more involved they are actively contributing to improved outcomes for young people, with evidence highlighting that parental involvement adds two to three years to a child's education. With this in mind, we have previously held Parent Forum Meetings alongside collating views of parents via Microsoft Forms. These are not usually well attended, despite holding them at different times of the day therefore as a Trust, we are looking at how we can gain parent voice more effectively. Until then, I will cancel the Summer Term meeting and will introduce a the new way of collating Pupil Voice in the Autumn Term.

Summer Dates 2024

The summer is packed with lovely events for our children and families to enjoy. I have attached an updated Summer Term Planner for your information. This will also be updated on WEDCUC and monthly reminders will continue to come out with further information about each event nearer the time.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support and I wish you very happy Easter. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 8th April 2024, for the start of the Summer Term!

Andrea Brown
Headteacher