

# Parent Forum Minutes



## CHILDREN COME FIRST.

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<b>Meeting title:</b>	<b>Spring term meeting of the Somerby Parent Forum</b>
<b>Date and time:</b>	<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 3pm</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Meeting at the school</b>

<b>In attendance</b>	*	Andrea Brown, Headteacher.
	*	Anna Duval, MET Clerk.

Note: The Parent Forum meeting was cancelled for Parents as on the day there were a high number of Covid cases. As parents had submitted questions prior to the meeting, the Headteacher and the Clerk met to respond to the questions so that they could be answered in a timely manner. You may contact the Headteacher if you have any further questions at any time.

### Welcome and Introductions

Mrs Brown said there had been a number of parents who had expressed an interest in attending the Parent Forum but unfortunately on the day due to Covid were unable to attend.

### Summary of the Autumn Term

Mrs Brown gave a summary of the Autumn Term.

- **Behaviour Culture.** The behaviour culture is now becoming more established as a routine.
  - Reflection Sheet. If required children complete a reflection sheet to help them think about their actions to improve their behaviour.
  - **Sentence Starters.** The children are given sentence starters to help give them the confidence to start a conversation with visitors and adults in the school.
  - **Positive comments from the Community:** Swimming / Oak trip.

The staff from the swimming pool said that they were the best-behaved school they had seen for a long time. Mrs Brown congratulated the children on their excellent behaviour.

Oak class visited Oakham Castle and the coach was late in collecting the children on their return journey. To occupy their time the children sang carols. The residents from a nearby care home observed the

children singing and opened their windows to listen. Since then, the children have asked to form a school choir and the choir now plan to visit residential care homes in the future to sing to residents.

- **Improve Teaching and Learning experiences for children.**

- Improving Teaching.

This is so that every child can fully access the lesson.

- Marking enhances progress.

To give children consistent feedback on their work.

- Curriculum across all subjects.

The curriculum map shows each subject, at each year group, and each term. It shows the progression of knowledge and how some areas are revisited and developed. The transition from year 6 to secondary school is considered the subject area knowledge needed is included in the curriculum to ensure the children are prepared for high school.

- **Wellbeing – Feel Good Friday – Mindfulness.**

Every week the children do a half hour mindfulness session that include activities like yoga, mindful art or breathing windmills.

- **FOSS – Benches / Clock / Outside Seating.**

The Friends of Somerby School have raised funds and purchased two new benches that replace the old rotten ones in the playground, a personalised clock for the playground and some picnic benches that the children can use at lunch or break to eat at or to use as a table to play e.g., colouring. Mrs Brown and the staff thank FOSS for these additional worthwhile resources.

- **Social Media:** Raise our Profile - @SomerbyPrimary.

This is the new school twitter account.

## **Plan for the Spring term onwards**

- **Open Days.**

There will be open days that parent can book a time to visit. This will replace the traditional single open day event where all would attend at the same time. Parents can visit the school and see it in action and will be able to look at their child's books

- **New Phonics Scheme.**

A new phonics scheme called Essential Letters and Sounds has been introduced.

- **Environment.**

The estates team will be repairing the rotten gate, painting the railings, clearing the moss at the front of the school, updating the school sign and adding the correct details to it. Longer term the school environment will be invested in.

- **Music Service – Autumn 2022 Oak.**

Parents asked in the previous Parent Forum if instrumental lessons could be provided in school. Leicestershire Music Services will be commencing music lessons for Oak (years 4, 5 and 6) in the Autumn term. The children will receive 12 weeks of lessons in an instrument. This year it will be

guitar lessons. Those that wish to continue lessons after the 12 weeks may arrange further lessons. Each year a different musical instrument will be offered.

### **Feedback from Parents What is Working Well.**

Mrs Brown contacted parents in advance of the meeting for feedback and parents said the following was working well.

- “Almost everything!”
- “Class dojo provides good communication with the teachers”
- “The rainbow road is good for achieving”
- “Focus on manners is producing noticeable results - particularly on the class as a group, when I have seen them together”
- “Kids working together no matter what the age is”
- “Being a small school children all seem to get along really well”

### **Feedback from Parents: Things to Improve?**

Mrs Brown contacted parents in advance of the meeting for questions to raise. The following was received from parents in advance of the meeting. Mrs Brown addressed each one.

- “Teacher’s understanding in SEN”  
The teacher’s role is to make sure lessons are adapted for all abilities so all children can access the learning. Our Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) is trained in SEN and is responsible for advising our teachers; developing our teacher’s understanding of SEN and works with parents and outside professionals to help support each child with SEN.

- “Interactive on-line session if in lockdown”  
Yes, this will happen IF we lockdown, but we have no plans to do this and will only happen as a last resort.

- “Gates opening up on time in the morning”  
The gates are opened at 8:30am. Prior to this time we are preparing for the children’s learning and things can happen which may delay opening on rare occasions: a phone call from a parent, a safeguarding issue to deal with, an urgent meeting with the Head, or even something as simple as a photocopier jamming! These things happen but are few and far between. The gates are open from 8:30 to 8:45am giving children plenty of time to get into school for an 8:45am start. If this issue is consistently happening, please let me know as I am not there every day to check.

Another two areas of concern were raised by parents. However, they were regarding a specific pupil, parent, or member of staff. As mentioned at the beginning, we will not be discussing items relating to specific pupils, specific parents, or individual staff: this should be discussed one to one with the relevant teacher or Headteacher as appropriate.

If you feel your question has not been answered, please get in touch the Headteacher to discuss this separately.

### **Discussion focus suggested by Trust Board**

The Trust Board may ask for opinions on certain areas for focus at the meetings from time to time and there were no items received on this occasion.

### **Next Parent Forum Meeting**

The next Parent Forum is on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 8.45am.**

The meeting closed at 4.00pm