

Parent Forum Minutes



CHILDREN COME FIRST.

Meeting title:	Summer term meeting of the Somerby Parent Forum
Date and time:	Thursday 18th May 2022 at 8.45am
Location:	Meeting at the school

In attendance	*	Andrea Brown, Headteacher.
	*	Josh Watt
	*	Louise Buckenham
	*	Lucy Cowler
	*	Shelley Morton
	*	David Chappell
	*	Anna Duval, MET Clerk

Welcome and Introductions

Mrs Brown welcomed parents to the summer term Parent Forum and explained how the meetings are to get feedback and suggestions of improvements from parents and to help promote positive and effective two-way communication between parents and the Trust. She said the improvement of children's learning experience is the Forum's clear and consistent goal.

Parents were reminded that these meetings do not discuss items relating to specific pupils, specific parents, or individual staff and this should be discussed one to one with the relevant teacher or Headteacher as appropriate.

Summary of the Spring Term

Mrs Brown gave a summary of the Spring Term.

- **Behaviour Culture:**

- Reflections
- Behaviour Boosts (Self-Regulation when no one is watching / "Ask Questions" SLANT).

Mrs Brown said that behaviour has continued to be a focus.

Mrs Brown said the teachers have been encouraging the children to ask deeper questions about their learning.

- **Mental Health:**

Mrs Brown said that a number of children do suffer with worries and concerns and that the school now has Mrs Allen who is an emotional literacy support assistant. Parents asked if there is a disproportionate number of children here with concerns compared with other schools. Mrs Brown said the pupil premium numbers were high at 33% whereas national average is 16-17%.

Parents said pupil premium and mental health are two separate things. Mrs Brown agreed and said that non pupil premium children can also have mental health concerns but said that Somerby has a high ratio of both and said it can be due to many reasons: homelife, anxiety, or they may be talking about it more. Every Friday afternoon a mindfulness session takes place called Feel Good Friday.

- **Improve Teaching and Learning experience for children:**

- Curriculum Development. Mrs Brown explained that the Curriculum plan document has been a focus for development. It maps out what is being learnt and when and shows how the knowledge is built upon and recapped.

- New Phonic Scheme. The new phonics scheme started in January. The government are rightly pushing reading and writing and gave schools a choice of 10 phonics schemes. Somerby is using one called essential letters and sounds. The lowest 20% of readers receive interventions. Mrs Brown said that those receiving intervention may be at higher reading levels than those in other schools, but it is our school's lowest 20%.

- Stay and Play - Mrs Brown said they are holding stay and play sessions for new September starters and said there are 4 (potentially 5) new starters. The children will be collected from the preschool and spend the morning here.

- Parents' Evenings / Open Days. Mrs Brown said it was good to have been able to hold these face to face and having them over four days gave more choice for parents.

- Wider Community.

The Fire Service have visited the school.

Children from both Somerby and Ab Kettleby schools have been involved in the 'Queen's Bust' project. The children are making a clay bust of the queen, and it will be on display at Stapleford Hall.

- **FOSS Friends of Somerby School.**

Mrs Brown said that FOSS are aiming to recruit more parents and also hope to attract the parents of the new starters in September.

FOSS hold a cake sale every half term. Last term the cake sale raised £88. Parents said that Easter and Christmas are special cake sales and that the children love it.

Mrs Brown said that previous funds raised by FOSS has funded the costs of benches, personalised clock, books for the library, and new outdoor signs. Mrs Brown thanked FOSS for their great efforts.

Mrs Brown said that the new lead teacher starting in September will be supporting FOSS.

Summer Term

- **The Environment.** Mrs Brown said the school environment is starting to look a little tidier. The new school sign includes the correct Head's name, there is a new gate, the railings will be painted to match the gate, the moss has been removed from the ground at the front of the school.
- **Residential and Class Trips.** Somerby and Ab Kettleby schools are having a combined residential trip led by Mrs Freer to Kingswood.
- **Leavers' Assembly.** The leavers assembly will take place on the last day of term, Thursday 7th July.
- **End of Year Show.** The children are beginning to practice for the show.
- **End of Year Reports.** The reports will be out the last week of term.
- **Transitions.** Teachers are working with children to ensure smooth transitions from year 6 to secondary school and moving up in year groups within school. The children will spend time with their new class teachers during the Monday and Tuesday in the last week.
- **School Disco.** There will be a school disco.
- **Staffing for Autumn 2022.** Mrs Brown let parents know of some staffing changes. Mr DeGaye and Mrs Harrison are leaving. Mrs Sida is starting as Lead and class 3 teacher. Mrs Lee who is returning from maternity leave is reducing her hours and will be working at Ab Kettleby and therefore there will be a change of staff in Ash class. Mrs Dolman who does the teacher cover is leaving.

Autumn Term

- **First Class Teachers in all classes.** Mrs Brown described her ambition to have first class teachers in all classes and said that teaching is a vocation with an aim of impacting the learning of all children and a desire to improve the outcomes for all children.
- **Retention of staff.** Mrs Brown discussed retention of staff and the importance of developing their skills and ensuring they are happy and thriving. She said when they leave, they are to be replaced with teachers of equally high calibre. Parents gave an example of their child in the school of having 7/8 teachers and 5/6 Heads and said consistency is very important.
- **Curriculum.** To offer a broad and balanced curriculum which excites children, staff, and parents.

Feedback from Parents: What is Working Well.

Mrs Brown showed the following feedback that has been received:

- From my perspective, pretty much everything.
- Most things!
- Classroom teaching.

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.

- **Afterschool clubs seem to have become less stimulating/exciting.**

Mrs Brown said that it is a small school, and they rely on the expertise of the three staff and said so far, they have offered: Choir, Makaton, French Puzzles, Sewing, Lego, Multi-Sports, Book Club, Craft Club, ECO club, SATS booster, Problem Solving, Gymnastics. Mrs Brown said that from September there will be a permanent Tuesday sport club and new staff will offer clubs that will also include curriculum type after school clubs.

Mrs Brown asked for any parent or local expertise that may be able to assist in offering after school clubs to get in touch with her.

- **Why has Willow and oak had class trips but not ash at all.**

Mrs Brown said that each class will have had two class trips by the end of the year. Willow went to the Museum, Ash went to Ferneley's, and Oak have been to Rutland Museum and Rutland Water. In the summer term, all children attending either the residential or Oakham Castle and Y6 will go to Warning Zone.

- **I feel I don't have visibility of homework set for my child. Perhaps he has none (and I would prefer that to be the case) or perhaps I'm not looking in the right place (I do use Dojo).**

The children have spellings, reading and TT Rockstars. Mrs Brown said that children are reminded of this each term when we welcome them back.

- **Gate opening times can be late.**

Mrs Brown asked parents to please inform her on Dojo if this continues so that she can address which member of staff is late.

- **I would like alternatives to a shared parents' evening appointment to be offered for those parents who are no longer together.**

For a class of 20 (Oak) and 15-minute appointments, this takes teachers 5 hours to complete, on top of their day, not including preparation time. AB Kettleby have 30 children which equates to 7.5 hours. Mrs Brown said she has to consider workload / length of the day for teachers – as this is extra/unpaid work. However, they will always ensure both parents are kept up to date via email if they are unable to attend the meeting.

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 will be in the Autumn term.

The meeting closed at 9.40am