

# Parent Forum Minutes



## CHILDREN COME FIRST.

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<b>Meeting title:</b>	<b>Somerby Parent Forum</b>
<b>Date and time:</b>	<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 8.45am</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Meeting at the school</b>
<b>In attendance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Andrea Brown, Headteacher</li><li>* Shelley Morton</li><li>* Susie Davies</li><li>* Claire Thomas</li><li>* Anna Duval, MET Clerk</li></ul>

### Welcome and Introductions

Mrs Brown welcomed parents to the autumn term Parent Forum and explained that the rationale of the meetings is to get feedback and suggest improvements, and to help promote positive and effective two-way communication between parents and the Trust. 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.

Mrs Brown said she appreciates that the timing of the parent forum meetings may not be suitable to all parents therefore schedules them at different times each term. Parents can raise questions at any meeting as a Microsoft form is sent to parents in advance where they may respond to ask questions that will be included at the meeting and the minutes with responses are made available to all parents via the school's web page.

### Foss

Mrs Brown gave an update on FOSS. FOSS is the Friends of Somerby School pta committee.

#### FOSS Events

Valentine Disco – February. The FOSS Valentine school disco is due to take place tomorrow (Feb 10<sup>th</sup>). Mrs Brown said that unfortunately there will not be any teachers present as the date was arranged before asking the teacher's availability and unfortunately, they have other plans already in place at that time.

Bags 2 School. The last Bags 2 School event raised £50. There is another Bags 2 School event taking place May 10<sup>th</sup>.

A parent from FOSS said the Christmas cards and raffle raised £450 and said FOSS is trying sort out the bank account as the bank is not open during the week. They described some forthcoming FOSS events: Easter egg hunt and barbeque.

50's club where £2 is paid for a number and the drawn number wins £50.

Clay shooting.

Summer party in the field.

New Year's Eve event for parents.

Coronation Day. FOSS will donate funds to the school's coronation celebration day. Mrs Brown said that on the Friday before the coronation the school are planning coronation activities and will invite parents to share afternoon tea with the children to be held in the school field.

Mrs Brown said FOSS has contributed to the Library room update. The sink and pipework has been removed and there is a new carpet. – The plan is to have new bookcases, soft furnishings etc by Easter. Mrs Brown said that £1000 was donated from Somerby Town Estate that will be used for the library updates.

FOSS fundraising has enabled the following purchases: Benches, personalised clock, books for the library, new outdoor signs, outdoor seating, Panto.

### **School Estate update**

The roof works has been completed.

There are new carpets in the entrance, Ash, and Oak classes.

The Library will be recarpeted. Quotes are being obtained to update the carpet in between Willow and Ash classes.

Mrs Brown said that a wall needs repairing and they are currently obtaining quotes. The original stone will be reused.

They are also obtaining quotes for work on the railings.

Mrs Brown said the waterproof cover over the outside area was damaged during the roof building works and as it is covered by insurance it is being replaced on one side and cleaned on the other side.

### **OFSTED**

Mrs Brown said the school was visited by Ofsted last term and provided some feedback on areas for improvement. She said these were areas they had already identified and are in the school development plan.

*The curriculum in the early years is not always well planned or considered. Children do not always get access to provision that helps them to enrich their vocabulary and learn well. Leaders should develop the provision in the early years so that pupils' experiences enhance their learning.*

Everyone discussion how well the learning areas have already improved. Mrs Brown said they now need to differentiate the outdoor learning area for the year 1's to provide more structure and more vocabulary.

*The curriculum in some subjects is new. In these subjects, leaders have thought carefully about curriculum content and the order in which it should be taught. However, the monitoring of the delivery of these subjects has not yet taken place. Leaders should ensure that time is given to monitor all areas of the curriculum.*

Mrs Brown said that when she started as Headteacher at Somerby they had the topics, but the curriculum was not mapped out. The subjects are now mapped out with how they progress from reception to year 6 and onto to year 7 transition. They now need the objectives breaking down to specific skills and knowledge and that the curriculum plan is specific to the school as they have year groups taught together and it needs to be a 2-or 3-year rolling programme.

### **School Council Focus**

Mrs Brown said the children are still doing charitable fundraising activities.

The children are also doing debate questions. This helps them to think about issues and for discussions and assemblies to come from the child's voice. Last term the debate question was 'is online gaming safe?' This term the debate question is 'are all school rules important?' and this will be linked to the British Value "Rule of the Law".

### **Staffing update**

Mrs Brown updated parents on some staffing changes:

Mrs Parker (previously Miss Smith) is the new Willow Class Teacher. Mrs Green has replaced Mrs Toghill who is on maternity leave. Mrs French is the new SENCO working at the Grove and will visit Somerby every other Tuesday.

### **What's new?**

Mrs Brown said the children are doing work on tolerance and are linking this to the values of inclusivity and the to the British values of tolerance. Mrs Brown said they have updated some topics e.g., WW2 to include modern conflicts like Ukraine. Parents suggested looking at Syria too.

Mrs Brown said that she will be completing training to become the school's senior mental health lead and mental health first aider. Mrs Brown said they have been reactive, and they want to learn strategies to enable early intervention to improve children's mental health. Mrs Brown said they will continue the Feel-Good Fridays and described how the trust has a Trauma Informed and Therapeutic Wellbeing Practitioner who will work with children who need support, and the school also has an ELSA. (emotional literacy support assistant)

Mrs Brown said they are doing the following things to help improve the children's long-term memory, to recall subjects and refresh topics taught previously: Flash Back 4 for maths where children answer a question from yesterday, last week, last term and last year, recap quizzes, history timeline and RE links to religions and beliefs.

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

Mrs Brown showed the following feedback that has been received from parents:

- Pretty much everything.
- I think everything works well for my child. He's very happy at school and enjoys the routine he has.
- Most things.
- Welcoming culture.
- Photos on class dojo give far more of an idea of child's day than child :-)
- The Christmas decorations session was lovely.
- I don't feel personally there is anything that can be improved. I've not had any issues to make me think otherwise.
- I love all the after-school clubs you are now offering and swimming.

## 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.

- Breakfast club; after-school provision/clubs Mon through to Thursday.
- The improvement of children's learning experience
- Wrap around provision but I understand this is currently unviable.
- Did you manage to find anymore out about before and after school club due to Rosie not childminding anymore?

Mrs Brown said there were several questions about the school's before and after school provisions. Mrs Brown said a local child minder was doing child minding and would bring children to and from school and therefore this became the school's extended provision. This person has now stopped child minding. Mrs Brown said she recently had three prospective parents visit the school who decided not to send their children to the school due to a lack of extended provision.

Mrs Brown said the school staff provide some after school clubs, but they need someone to provide a breakfast club and a regular afterschool club each day. They have explored several options and contacted companies and advertised for someone but not have any results. They are now considering the possibility of employing a PE specialist that can do before and after school provision, interventions, and school PE but they already pay someone to do the PE curriculum. Mrs Brown said that at present she has not got a satisfactory solution.

- Road safety. During drop off/pick up time a number of very large vehicles park entirely on the pavement. This forces children to walk in the road because there is no pavement on the other side of the road (running alongside the pub.) Not specifically a school issue but if we could remind people to park considerately and not completely block a right of way.

Mrs Brown said this came to her attention more when it was necessary to use the front gate whilst the building work was taking place. Parents discussed times when they have experienced road safety problems themselves outside of the school. Mrs Brown said she has spoken to the local councillor. The council did a speed check, and the average speed was 34 miles. There is a speed sign to say 20mph during school leaving times. Mrs Brown said they can't have zig zag lines as it is opposite residential parking. Discussions have taken place about extending the railings but the council argue that this is a hazard too. Mrs Brown said the council referred to an old survey to say more children attended the school from outside the village however more than half of the children live in the village. Mrs Brown said that is continuing to progress this issue.

- Are you happy to have volunteers?

Yes. Mrs Brown said anyone that interested in volunteering will need to have a DBS check and to please contact the school to arrange this.

- My child is currently worried he doesn't know his 6, 7 & 9 times tables and is worried about this when he goes to secondary school.

Mrs Brown said the parent should contact the class teacher to discuss this.

- A parent described a positive scheme at John Ferneley college that helps children form friendship groups. There is also a support staff that children can talk to who will be their advocate and help them talk with the teacher. They said it has helped children feel more positive about attending school. Mrs Brown said she visited John Ferneley college and spoke to children who had moved there from Somerby and that the children's feedback was positive and that they do a lot of work between the schools helping with transition.
- A parent asked for the school calendar dates as they joined school mid-year. Mrs Brown said that she will send them and in future those that join mid-year will receive the dates that others will have received at the start of the term.
- Parents asked about forest schools. Mrs Brown said they use the village green. Parents said that before Covid they used to go to Little Dalby Wood for forest school activities led by a local charity. Mrs Brown said she will make some enquiries.

### **Next Parent Forum Meeting**

The next Parent Forum will be in the summer term.

The meeting closed at 9.40am