

# Parent Forum Minutes



---

<b>Meeting title:</b>	<b>Somerby Parent Forum</b>
<b>Date and time:</b>	<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 3.15pm</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Meeting at the school</b>
<b>Parents</b>	Hollie Newcombe Shelley Morton David Chapel
<b>In attendance</b>	Andrea Brown, Headteacher Anna Duval, MET Clerk

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Mrs Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the rationale of the meetings. They are to provide 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.

Mrs Brown said at these meetings 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.

A MS Forms was sent to all parents in advance of the meeting to give feedback and raise questions to the parent forum. There were 5 responses and these were used to shape discussions.

## **FOSS Friends of Somerby School**

FOSS have organised a number of events including a clay shoot in June and a Halloween disco and have raised money for the school, the pre-school, and the air ambulance. This has helped pay for further development to the school library.

Mrs Brown said the school received a £250 donation from Whissendine parish council as some children who live there attend the school.

## **Update on school estate**

Mrs Brown describe the recent improvements in the school estate:

The retaining wall has been fixed.

The railings have been painted.

A new secure entrance system has been installed.

The fencing in the pond area has been altered, so that the gate has been moved and the garden can be accessed.

The moss at the front of the school has been kept on top of.

The next step is to repair the fencing around the field.

### **Autumn term focus 2023**

#### **Speech and Language Project NHS - Word Aware**

Mrs Brown said they are working with Ab Kettleby and Grove schools on a speech and language project on an NHS project called Word Aware. Children who are behind in language development at age five are six times less likely to reach the expected standard in English at age eleven, and 11 times less likely to achieve the expected level in maths.

-Mrs Brown said that poor language links to poor mental health and spoke of the importance of reading. Each child is given a book for each year they are at the school. Mrs Brown said that research shows that children (0-5 years old) hear an estimated cumulative 1.4 million more words during storybook reading than children who are never read to.

#### **Stay and Play Sessions**

Mrs Brown said the popularity of the stay and play sessions is increasing. We could have more than our allocated numbers apply for August 2024 and as there are places across whole school Leicestershire Admissions will look to see if more places can be allocated to new starters.

#### **Subject Leadership Development**

This term the school has scrutinised Geography, Science and History and continue to develop the teaching and learning of subjects. They subjects are looked at in detail, the curriculum maps are looked at and the learning is tracked for a child from reception to year 6 and the knowledge are updated.

The school has joint topics for Y456 and some Y23 with Ab Kettleby. Y456 now have all topics the same for this academic year. This helps with joint planning and joint trips. Year 2/3 are in the process of merging their topics, sharing two for this academic year and again are sharing planning ideas and trip experiences. Mrs Brown gave an example where the children from Somerby went to Ab Kettleby for the great fire of London topic.

**New Learning Logs.** Mrs Brown said the new learning logs are to extending learning outside of the classroom. Each child will be given a range of activities and can complete as many as they would like. Many are simple and therefore all can complete one task.

**Extended school provision.** Mrs Brown said that extended school provision is being looked at as a Trust. She said they did manage to find an offer but parents felt it was too expensive. Mrs Brown will keep parents updated as the year moves forward.

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

- The atmosphere, mainly warm and positive. The behaviour of children during drop off/pick up.
- Happy with everything.
- One child has commented what a peaceful atmosphere it is, and that nothing ever seems stressed or rushed in class and also that their teacher handles situations very calmly. This certainly helps give a good atmosphere to actually enjoy learning. I think also think the homework, and the way it is provided also makes it much more enjoyable for the children with its openness for how it can be completed.
- Teacher are doing a great job
- I just want to say thank you to Mrs Brown and Mrs Sida, I've always felt you are both so approachable and friendly at the school gates every morning. I feel you give everyone the time of day (children and parents) and that we can easily chat to you with concerns or queries in a relaxed way.

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

- I can't say I'm loving the new school app. Could do with being more straightforward. Signing a consent form for instance, was confusing and not very user friendly, especially if you're in a rush/busy.

Weduc is a great app which keeps everything under one roof – attendance, lunches, consent, diary dates etc. however, we are aware this is new and we need to get used to it – I also appreciate it could be more straightforward!

The company is constantly updating their app and if any parent is finding an area tricky or time consuming, please feed this back to Mrs Ferguson in the office and we will feed that back to the company who may be able to improve it moving forward.

- The children are doing a lot of out of school sports. But they are not learning anything about the sport first, i.e., football. They could have learning a little in PE i.e., how to kick ball or how to be in goal. Before going to play the sport for the school. Otherwise, it seems a little waste of time and money and makes the kids feel disappointed in themselves

As we have mixed age classes, we have a 2-year rolling programme for EYFS to Y3 and a 3-year rolling programme for Y456 PE covering a range of sports. Football was on last year's cycle. This year as an example is dodgeball and we entered a dodgeball competition where Kat will cover this in PE to cover the basic rules prior to the competition. But our programme doesn't necessarily fit with the Leicestershire PE offer but it must meet the requirements for the National Curriculum. If we have a competition, we do make sure children know the rules and practice before entering. Our aim is also to be proud of our team and follow the Spirit of the Games - Passion, Self-Belief, Respect, Honesty, Determination and Teamwork. Mrs Brown showed parents the PE curriculum map for the autumn term.

## **Questions from parents**

Parents asked about the library bus and said before Covid it used to visit on a monthly basis. It used to stop outside school and read a story to the children. It now stops further down the village. Mrs Brown said she didn't know about the library bus but she will contact county council library services to make enquires.

Some parents said the after-school clubs are very sport related this term. Other parents said there has been cooking, gardening and a range of clubs.

Mrs Brown said teachers do one school club each for a term. They can only offer a limited number of clubs as there only 3 staff and the ones offered depends on their skills. This term it happens to be karate. A second club is delivered by a sports coach.

The next Parent Forum will be in the spring term.

The meeting closed at 3.50pm