

Parent Forum Minutes



Meeting title:	Somerby Parent Forum
Date and time:	Thursday 5th June 2025 at 3.00pm
Location:	Meeting at the school
Parents	Lucinda Tracey Hollie Newcombe Kashia Ward Stacey Ward Jen Pouncey Danielle Mcfadzean Jenny Allen
In attendance	Andrea Brown, Headteacher Anna Duval, MET Clerk

Welcome and Introductions

Mrs Brown welcomed everyone to the Parent Forum meeting and thanked parents for their attendance and to those who have completed the MS Forms responses.

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 8 responses and these were used to shape discussions.

The rationale of the meeting was explained. 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.

Parent Forum meetings 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.

Parent governor opportunities

Mrs Duval said that Somerby is one of the schools in Melton Mowbray Trust and explained the governance structure. There are opportunities for parents to become a governor in one of the three local governing committees: the Performance Committee, the Curriculum Committee and the Community Committee. If any parents are interested in finding out more about the role of the parent governor or is interested in becoming a parent governor please ask the school to share your contact details with the Governance Manager.

Summary of 2024/2025

Autumn 2025 EYFS

Mrs Brown said last year there was 11 new starters in reception. The year before there was 1 with a further 2 joining. The numbers vary year to year. Autumn 2025 has 3 new starters giving Somerby as their first choice. There are a potential 5 new starters the following year.

Clubs Complete

Mrs Brown described some issues with Clubs Complete wraparound care. Clubs Complete started at Somerby and Ab Kettleby in February 2025. There have been a number of issues in the provision and service that has made it necessary to remove the provision from 10th July.

There will be 3 school led after school clubs from August 2025. Urban movement will offer two clubs and a third will be offered through school staff. There will not be a breakfast club.

Mrs Brown said there is a potential to look again in 2025/26 for Wraparound care and are in discussions with Urban movement and the county council to find a solution.

School Development Plan

Writing Focus

Mrs Brown said that writing is a Trustwide focus. It follows reading that was the previous Trustwide focus. Staff are receiving quality writing training to look at improvements. Mrs Brown said they want children to be as fluent in writing as reading and be enthusiastic and passionate about writing.

Parents suggested that children from Somerby could send pen pal type letters to children at Ab Kettleby.

Assessment of foundation subjects.

Mrs Brown said they are looking at how the foundation subjects (subjects other than Maths, English and Science) are assessed to test children's progress.

Arts mark award

Schools is working towards the Arts mark award over the next 18 months. The school has already obtained the Mental Health, Sports and Healthy School awards.

Forest School Provision – Ab Kettleby

The Reception/ Year 1 class teacher at Ab Kettleby has completed their forest school teacher training. A forest school area has been developed in the school grounds at Ab Kettleby. Somerby Reception / Year 1 children will be visiting Ab Kettleby to use the forest school provision. Parents asked if all schools will be using the forest school.

Mrs Brown said that the teacher has to deliver to the same year group as she was trained but longer term it will be opened to all school years.

PSHE – Spring Fair Success

Mrs Brown described how the spring fair was part of the children's PSHE topic. Each of the 3 classes were given £10 each and a total of £217 was raised. Children made Easter nests, spinners and grew plants from seeds. Parents suggested opening up the spring fair to the wider community.

FOSS

The PTA committee Friends of Somerby School have been active in raising funds for the school and have purchased a reading pod and a pop up gazebo for school use.

There was a clay shoot in May to raise funds for the school.

Trust Updates:

A new CEO Louse Lee has been appointed to the Trust and started at the beginning of the summer term.

New Catering Contract from August

Mrs Brown said the catering contract has come to an end and a new catering contract was tendered. The provision will remain the same with meals being cooked in another trust school and delivered to Somerby.

Estates Support

Mrs Brown said there was a damp wall that required decorating following the guttering replacement but due to listing building approval from the council it has taken the year to complete. The kitchen, hall and stairs have been redecorated.

There are plans for 25/26 to replace the fence around field, provide a heater in Willow outside area and complete some work on the oil tank.

Feedback from Parents: What is Working Well?

- Outdoor learning environment.
- Small group.
- Opportunities to mix with older groups.
- Parent involvement (phonics session, regular updates on dojo etc)
- Very happy all round. Small classes means lots of attention to each child.
- Very happy at the moment. My child is always happy to go to school which is very important.
- Communication with teachers.
- Fantastic communication between the school and home.
- Thank you for making Somerby such a fantastic school. I've had children here non-stop since 2016 and you've given them a brilliant start to their education.
- High quality teaching. Teachers really know their pupils and are interested in their progress. Good school attitude towards punctuality and uniform. Plenty of activities out of school especially sporting ones. Shame about the wraparound care, but not unexpected in such a small school.
- Learning and practice what was thought.

- Everything within the core school day.
- Communication platforms.

Feedback from Parents: What could we improve?

- A better after school provision for working parents. Current providers are quite expensive for low quality care.
- After school provision: the current set-up is sadly worse than the previous set-up, with few participants and costs much higher than was the case before.
- Changes/developments regarding before and after school care/clubs.
- School apps- There are too many and it can get confusing when giving consent etc. Diary dates- I've noticed a lot of parents get confused when it comes to inset days etc. Sometimes the dates don't match up with the term timetable
- Ever increasing number of communication systems / platforms. Difficult to keep up with messages - if you're trying to find a previous message, it's really hard to know where to find it.
- School PE tops- offer bigger sizes for room to grow
- More History and Geography.

Items discussed at the Parent Forum

Mrs Brown said the school has a family feel and the children mix very well together.

School apps

Mrs Brown and parents discussed the number of apps and changes to the apps used.

Mrs Brown explained that the previous Management Information System contract ended and it was retendered and the system used now is Bromcom. Bromcom includes a front end for parents called MCAS app. (My Child At School)

Parents reported a number of issues they are having with MCAS.

Reporting absences. Parents raised that they can't record absences on MCAS. Mrs Brown will report this.

Notifications. Parents discussed that are they are not receiving notification. Mrs Brown said that it is necessary to set the app to allow notifications. If setting notifications does not work for parents then please contact the school so they can explore this issue further.

Message feed. Parents and Mrs Brown said they can't search for messages and that all messages come through as one long feed meaning it is easy to miss messages.

Parents said that some parents have set up a WhatsApp group for parents to help one another share information.

Mrs Brown said the school still uses Dojo and messages can be sent to the school via Dojo,

School PE tops

Parents requested larger sizes to be provided as children grow.

Mrs Brown said that the PE tops are provided by Friends of the 10th Battalion and children are provided with a new PE top when they outgrow them.

More history and geography lessons

Mrs Brown explained that the school is required to follow national curriculum.

Leaver Hoodies

Parents asked why leavers get their hoodies on the last day when children in other schools get them earlier.

Mrs Brown explain the reasons around gifting the hoodies on the last day.

Swim lessons

Parents asked when children have school swim lessons.

Mrs Brown said children have swimming lessons from year 2 onwards in the autumn term. There are specialist swim instructors. The children go to Melton swimming pool and are set in groups depending on the child's ability. The children are assessed regularly and can move up through the groups.

Mrs Brown said that if a child is struggling to swim 25metres by year 6 the sports premium funding can be used to provide extra lessons.

Trips funding

Parents asked how trips are funded.

Mrs Brown said trips are funded through the school budget, parental contributions and depending on the trip some sports funding can be used. Mrs Brown said the school aims to keep trip prices down for parents' contributions by the school funding the transport costs.

Parents asked if FOSS money could be used to cover the cost of trips. Mrs Brown said that FOSS money is used to benefit all children and has previously funded a whole school trip to a pantomime.

The meeting ended at 3:50pm