



Sommerby Primary School



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Working in partnership: Ab Kettleby and Sommerby Primary Schools

Wednesday 17th December 2025

Autumn 2025 Round-up!

Dear Parents & Carers,

They say life speeds up as we get older, but goodness me this Autumn term has flown by. It doesn't seem two minutes ago that we were welcoming our new starters to our school and now we end our first term, completing 16 weeks out of 39. As we head towards the most magical time of the year, I would like to update you on a few key areas.

INNOVATE - Impact Food Group app - important changes to ordering hot dinners from January 2026

The biggest change to be aware of is the introduction of the new Impact Food Group app from January to order hot dinners.

Please note:

- Dinners will need to be ordered on the app **PRIOR** to the start of the school day.
- **School will not be able to place an order for parents.**
- If parents do not order on time, school will have to ring you to ask you to bring a packed lunch - **there will be no option to order retrospectively.**

Please ensure you have downloaded the app and are ready to place your first order for Wednesday 7th January 2026.

Estates

You may have noticed some work going on in and around school in the last few weeks. Scaffolding has been erected as the Bell Tower on the top of the school is causing leaks into the entrance of our school on wet days and on really wet days, we are in need of a bucket to catch the water!

We also have scaffolding at the side of the gates in the field, while repair works to the external wall is carried out.

We have also had CCTV fitted to capture the external areas of the school, for added safety measures. The cameras are focussed on the front entrance hall, the side entrance gates and the playground.



We're working towards Artsmark
Awarded by Arts Council England

Part of Mowbray Education Trust

Mowbray Education Trust, Pera Business Park,
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Ofsted New Framework

Ofsted have released a new framework and, as we will be due an Ofsted Inspection in Autumn 2026, over the coming months I will be working with members of my Senior Leadership Team and the rest of the team to ensure we are fully prepared for a forthcoming inspection. Whatever your views are on Ofsted, expectations and standards need to be in place. Everything we do is with our children at the heart of it and it is important we are recognised for the hard work the whole team puts into our school to make it small, but mighty.

Arts in School

As you may be aware, we are working hard towards the ARTSMARK award this year. Artsmark is a national quality standard mark recognising the commitment of a school to the arts and cultural education. We are passionate about raising children's awareness of the arts, immersing children into different experiences and the award shows our commitment. We already work with Kathryn Saunby Art Studio, and we are looking to extend this to other art studios, dance, drama, music and much more over the coming year.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance at school and punctuality each day is vital in ensuring the children succeed in education and are given the best possible chance in life. Our aim is for all children to attend over 96% of the school year, giving around 8 days leeway in the school year for possible sickness or unavoidable absences. Once a child's attendance drops to 90%, this means they have missed around 20 days of learning - a whole month - resulting in gaps in learning which cannot be repeated.

For a child who arrives at school at 8:50am each morning, missing the first 20 minutes of the day, means they will miss in total a further 10 days of learning over the academic year - again this time cannot be gained back.

Please make a New Year's Resolution to aim to arrive at school for the opening time and to reduce unnecessary absences.

Staff changes

As you know, our fabulous Mrs Allen is retiring at Christmas after 11 years and 10 months with us here at Somerby Primary School. Over those years she has been a pivotal part of the team, supporting so many children through their primary school years and, in particular, supporting numerous children in her role as ELSA. I have worked with Mrs Allen for just over 4 years now and she is by far one of the best support staff I have worked with. She will be truly missed by us all.

As irreplaceable as Mrs Allen is, and with big shoes to fill, Mrs Burdett is currently training alongside the Educational Psychology Team to be our new ELSA and has been supported by Mrs Allen to ensure a smooth transition and to make sure our children continue to receive high quality ELSA interventions when needed.

Mr Steans has also been appointed as our new Learning Support Assistant and will work with the children in Oak Class and Mrs Sida from January. Mr Steans is new to the role and has a desire to be a teacher in the future and we are delighted to start him off on this exciting journey for him too.

Fundraising

FOSS continue to support us with fundraising for which we are very grateful. This term they organised a disco for children to enjoy and continue the Tuckshop each Friday which has raised over £650 from March to December!

Their money is being used to help us redesign our outdoor area, which is a big project to be developed over the next few months, and they have also kindly offered to pay for the bus for the whole school Panto trip, which is a significant help to our parents at this expensive time of the year. Thank you FOSS team!

Tesco Blue Tokens are still in the throws of being voted for until mid-January so please please do some shopping at Tesco in Melton and vote for us! The minimum we will secure is £500 for 3rd place but we could get as much as £1500 if we come 1st, which would be incredible!

Davina Bates

As you know, we sadly lost Davina at the beginning of our academic year. Davina was such a huge supporter of our school and will be a huge loss to us. Davina was devoted to her community and fought at the time to keep Somerby Primary School open.

Each Wednesday a group of Davina's friends would meet for coffee and would put £1 into a kitty. Over the years the money was used to pay for treats for children at Somerby Primary School, such as Mothering Sunday gifts. As both Davina and Michael have passed, they no longer meet but have kindly donated the surplus funds to FOSS for our use - an incredibly kind gesture.

In memory of Davina, as our number one supporter, we have decided to name an annual award after her. Each year a child will be nominated for a "Davina Bates Community Spirit" Award and will be presented with a beautiful, engraved glass trophy to keep. We will keep a record in school over the forthcoming years of the winners of the award, so her name will live on in our small, but mighty school.

Spring Dates

I have attached an updated copy of our Spring and Summer dates; please check for any changes we have had to make.

Please also remember that we have two inset days on Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th January 2026 and therefore children will return to school on Wednesday 7th January 2026.

As always, as we come to the end of a term, please can I remind you how hard all our staff have worked and all deserve a well-earned rest and time with their own loved ones this Christmas. Please refrain from sending dojo messages during this time and if you need to contact us urgently, then please contact me.

All that is left for me to do is to wish all our families a very merry Christmas and a happy new year and we look forward to welcoming you all back in January!

Andrea Brown
Headteacher