



# Somerby Primary School

Working in partnership: Ab Kettleby and Somerby Primary



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9<sup>th</sup> July 2024

## Summer Term Round Up!

### Reflections of the year

I have to pinch myself at times when I think I am coming to the end of my 3rd year working at our small but mighty school and the journey we have been on, so far. I think I am the luckiest Headteacher in the world: to have such a strong team; fabulous children; good parental support and supportive community partnerships with the church and FOTT. I am always looking to see how we can further improve the opportunities we offer our children, and I am excited to see what the 2024/2025 academic year brings us.

Our children amaze me every day with their determination to succeed and the excitement and energy they show towards their learning. Watching our children from 4 years old up to 11 years old, work together to perform the end of year show was such a proud moment for me: all children showed respect, kindness, pride, courage, team-work, motivation and aspiration - values we instil in our children every day.

### Year 6 goodbyes

Our current year 6 children were stepping into the world of Oak Class when I first started at Somerby, 3 years ago, and it has been an absolute pleasure to see them develop as a Year 6 team. They have made such progress, not only academically but also in their resilience and attitude to learning. We will miss their smiling faces each day, and I truly hope they keep in touch and let us know how they are getting on in their new secondary schools. I have no doubt they will hold our school values close to their hearts and will continue to make us all proud. Luckily, due to siblings coming through over the next few years, we don't have to say goodbye to their families just yet!

### Staffing Structure 24/25

I am happy to announce we have no change of teachers for the new academic year! Just a little swap of support staff in Willow and Ash to be aware of:

### Oak Class - Year 4,5,6

Mrs Sida will continue to be our Lead Teacher and teacher of Oak Class and will be supported by Mrs Allen.



Part of Mowbray Education Trust

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Children First

### **Ash Class - Year 2,3**

Miss Miller will continue as teacher of Ash Class and will be supported, this year, by Mrs Burdett.

### **Willow Class - EYFS, Y1**

Mrs Parker and Mrs Green will continue as teachers of Bumble Bee Class and will be supported, this year, by Mr Hyde.

Mrs Toghill will continue to support Oak Class and Ash Class from August, covering the teachers when they have their planning and preparation time.

### **New SENCO**

We have one small change with our SENCO! Mrs French currently works 3 days at The Grove and one day covering Ab Kettelby and Somerby. Due to the increased needs of the children at The Grove, the decision has been made to move Mrs French to The Grove for the full 4 days. As from August, our new SENCO will be Mrs Jess Watson. Mrs Watson has been a teacher for just over 10 years and is currently the SENCO and Assistant Head at Sherard Primary and the Trust SEND Lead. She has a breadth of previous experience, working with both secondary, higher education and primary school students and has previously worked in a pupil referral unit. As part of her role as Trust SEND Lead she oversees the implementation of individualised support plans for all students with special educational needs and/or disabilities, coordinates with SENCO's, teachers and parents across the Trust, and is an advocate for inclusive practices throughout the Trust. She is also an independent visitor for children in care with Leicester City Council. Mrs French will ensure a full handover and we will organise a date in the Autumn term for parents to meet Mrs Watson.

### **Uniform**

School uniform is an important part of life at Somerby Primary School. It promotes a sense of pride, a sense of belonging and maintains an equality, all of which positively contributes to the wellbeing of children. From time to time, incorrect uniform tends to creep into our school (eg incorrect hair accessories or sock colour, incorrect jewellery or logo shoes/trainers on non-PE days). We need parents to help us maintain our high expectations and double check the correct uniform is being worn for school and for PE days. As a reminder, the full uniform can be found on our website:

<https://www.somerby.org.uk/page/?title=School+Uniform&pid=39>

### **Statutory Attendance Guidance - August 2024**

This is just a reminder to all parents of the new statutory guidance which comes into force as of August 2024. A separate letter was sent out last week which identified the importance of good attendance, punctuality, and penalties for unauthorised absences. The learning day is so full, that even one day off school can cause gaps in children's knowledge and understanding and this can have a negative effect on their self-esteem and mental health. Our aim is for children to attend school 96% or above, this gives leeway for genuine sickness, which may occur, in the academic year. Children are required to be in school at 8:30am for registration at 8:45am.

### **Music Provision Autumn 24**

I have managed to secure a 3<sup>rd</sup> year of music provision for the Autumn Term for Children in Oak Class. One afternoon per week, children will learn how to play the Djembe drums September to December. Children at Ab Kettleby Primary School will also be learning to play the Djembe drums and we are hoping to bring the two classes together for a little performance for parents

to watch later in the Autumn term. Each Autumn term a new instrument will be introduced, giving children the opportunity to enjoy 3 different instruments over the time they are in Oak Class (Guitar - Strings, Trumpet- Brass, Djembe - Percussion).

### **Extra after school club offer**

In our bid to source extended school provision, we have managed to secure an extra club provision as from August. We will therefore be offering clubs 3 times a week on a regular basis. Details of all clubs will be sent out in August Club letter.

### **Tesco Community Grant**

We are delighted to let you know that our application to the Tesco Community Grants Scheme has been successful and our project will be put forward to a customer vote in Tesco stores from the beginning of July 2024 and continue until the end of September 2024.

Our project is to provide our children with an outdoor learning area/Reading Pod, to support learning, wellbeing and mental health of our children.

The project with the highest number of votes will receive £1,500, second placed project £1,000 and the third placed project £500.

Please see below a list of stores taking part in the voting on your project. Feel free to share this information with your family, friends and wider community.

Melton Mowbray Superstore LE13 1SQ  
Nottingham Road Melton Mowbray Express LE13 0NR

To vote, you will need to make a purchase within one of these stores of any value. You will receive one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token. If you are not offered a token, please ask for one!

### **Parent voice**

Thank you to all families who responded to our "2024 Reflections" which we trialled for the first time last month. The uptake of this was excellent (I think the offer of Dojo points helped!) and we enjoyed reading all the lovely feedback and suggestions. Your opinions matter to us.

### **Autumn 2024 Dates**

We are currently putting together dates for the new 24/25 academic year and we will send these out at the start of the Autumn Term. Children will start back on Tuesday 27th August 2024.

Please note, we have two INSET days for staff training on Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th October 2024 therefore school will close on the evening of Friday 18th October for the autumn half-term break and children will return on Wednesday 30th October.

### **Swimming Y2-Y6 - Autumn Term 2024**

We have managed to secure a slot at Waterfield Leisure Centre on a Friday for the Autumn term 2024, rather than the Spring term. The first week of swimming will be Friday 6th September and the last session will be Friday 13th December. Further information was sent out this week.

### **End of year reports**

Teachers have been working hard over the last few months to produce our children's end of year Reports and they were sent home on Monday. I hope you enjoyed reading your child's end of year report as much as I did. They have all made amazing progress and we are so proud of every one of them. Each child at Somerby Primary School is unique and together they make our school small but mighty!

### **Thank you**

As we finish off the final days of the term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fabulous team for making our school so mighty. They deserve a well-earned rest over the coming weeks for the work they do, above and beyond expectations: time to recharge the batteries and spend time with family and friends.

Thank you to our fabulous children and families for your continued support and on behalf of all of us at Somerby Primary School, we wish you a great summer!

Andrea Brown  
Headteacher