



# ABOYNE LODGE

CREATIVE • CURIOUS • CARING

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 11th October '24



Dear Parents/Carers,

This week began with a visit to St Albans Abbey to see Cressida Cowell speak about her work as an author. Unfortunately, we were only limited to 15 places, so the teachers chose just 5 pupils from Year 4, 5 and 6. The children had a lovely time and came back feeling inspired.

We also had the opportunity this week to take four of our Year 5 children to St Albans High School for Girls for the Royal Institute's Maths mastery programme. This runs for most of the year and is a great opportunity for our more able Mathematicians to be really stretched. This week they were investigating parabolas.

Yesterday the Police were back in Year 5 conducting their mini-police course. This is the fourth year that we

have been lucky enough to take part and it is a great opportunity for the children.

Today we had our Harvest Festival celebration. It was fantastic to see so many families there, taking part in the songs. Well done to all the children who shared their work so beautifully. Thank you for your kind donations, which will be sent off the foodbank next week. It is a very good cause.

We have booked the panto this year at Harpenden. The theatre are asking for payment, so I would appreciate it if parents can go onto gateway and make payment please. Sadly, if we do not have enough contributions, the trip won't be able to go ahead.

ALSA are looking for your support with some of the upcoming events—the disco, Christmas Puddings,

and the Fair (for example). They need your help so that the children can enjoy these events.

And lastly, parents evening is coming up next week. Please sign up if you haven't managed to—slots go quickly.

Have a lovely weekend!

Best wishes, Keith Smithard

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon 14th Oct—Y6 Football vs St Peters (A)

Weds 16th Oct—Y5 Table Tennis Event

Weds 16th & Weds 23rd Oct—Parent Consultations

Thurs 17th Oct—Cross Country at Fleetville

Fri 18th Oct—Girls Football vs Skyswood (H)

Fri 18th Oct—Netball vs Maple (A)

Mon 28th Oct - Fri 1st Nov HALF TERM

\*\*\*\*\*ALSA notices\*\*\*\*\*

ALSA is a registered charity that runs events to raise money for the school.

Calling all budding volunteers!

We need volunteers for the for the Halloween disco – whether it is to help set up, serve drinks or help tidy up after the event. If you can help, speak to your year rep.

Key dates for your diaries in 2024:

- 24<sup>th</sup> October – Halloween disco
- 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Wreath making
- 6<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Fair

Easy fundraisers for the school

Below are a few things you can do to bring in extra pounds for the school.

Stikins name labels for uniform and other personal items. When buying via Stikins, use code 123 at checkout so that Aboyne Lodge gets 15% of the sale.

[www.stikins.co.uk](http://www.stikins.co.uk)

2. Stampastic is another option. The PTA Code AL35NL will work in conjunction with this link: <https://bit.ly/STAMPAL35NL>

Aboyne Lodge is also on easy fundraiser. It would be great if parents can go via it before buying all sorts of things from John Lewis to holidays. Once you have signed up with Aboyne Lodge as your cause we can make money every time you shop if you search and then spend online via Easyfundraising first. Take a look at how easy it is!

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/aboyne-lodge-school-association-alsa/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_medium=whatsapp&utm\\_content=c19-w6](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/aboyne-lodge-school-association-alsa/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=whatsapp&utm_content=c19-w6)

And lastly, a thank you to...

the local businesses that supported our quiz fundraising:

- Sharisse from the Osteopath Clinic in Harpenden. Osteopath sessions can be booked here: <https://osteopathy-clinic.co.uk>
- Cheryl from the Scented Essence, who is launching new scents for her non-toxic candles on the 8th October. Follow her on Instagram @the.scented.essence or at [www.thescentedessence.co.uk](http://www.thescentedessence.co.uk)

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# ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER.



## SMARTPHONES VS FEATURE PHONES?

[Smartphones vs dumb phones guide for parents | Internet Matters](#)

The debate around smartphone use in childhood is growing, with some schools, including some Hertfordshire, starting to ban phones. There is also increased discussion about feature phones as safer alternatives. Internet Matters has created a helpful guide to compare options.



[EE launches age guidance for smartphone usage in drive to improve children's digital wellbeing](#)

In August 2024 it was announced that EE were launching new age guidance for smartphone usage, addressing growing concerns about children's online safety and the effects of device usage on their overall wellbeing.

The age guidance suggests:

**Under 11:** Use non-smart devices like feature phones with texting and calling capabilities, restricting access to social media and inappropriate content.

**Aged 11-13:** Smartphones can be used with parental controls and a family-sharing app (e.g., Google Family Link or Apple Family Sharing), while limiting social media access.

**Aged 13-16:** Smartphones are appropriate with parental controls to manage access to content and platforms; social media is allowed but should be linked to a parent or guardian's account.

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## THE ABC ONLINE SAFETY CHECKLIST



Internet Matters have created an age-related ABC checklist for online safety:

A= Activate parental controls

B= Balance screen time

C= Check and chat

*'We've broken down the ABCs by age to help you manage your individual child's online safety.'*

[Use the ABC online safety checklist for parents | Internet Matters](#)



## GAMING TIPS FOR PARENTS OF NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN.

Internet Matters has published a helpful guide – focussing on online gaming safety tips for parents and carers of neurodivergent children. The simple 5-page guide covers research, examples of suitable games, some of the challenges parents face, and the key benefits.

The guide can be accessed [here](#)

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## DISCORD CHATROOM

There are growing concerns around content and conduct in the Discord chatrooms. Discord is a platform that hosts chat rooms dedicated to individual games including Fortnite. In a recent investigative report **'Why gaming still has a woman problem'** by Sky News, it was reported that *'There's no way to report Discord users for comments they make in voice chat.*



*There is for text-based conversations, but that is not how many gamers use Discord.'*

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/abc-online-safety-checklist/>

If your child is using chatrooms whilst gaming, Kids Online World has created a brief overview for parents and carers

[Discord - KIDSONLINEWORLD.COM](#)

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*The information in the newsletter is given to help promote the safety of children and young people online.*

Every care has been taken to ensure the information and any recommendations in the newsletter are accurate at the time of publishing. Schools must make their own judgements when sharing our recommendations with parents and carers and, where appropriate, always risk assess with their pupils and whole school community in mind.

This newsletter is brought to you by the HFL Education Wellbeing team as part of their online safety support for schools and settings in Hertfordshire. Contact the team at [wellbeing@hfleducation.org](mailto:wellbeing@hfleducation.org) or call 01438 544464.

HFL Education is a leading national provider of school improvement and business support services, training, and resources, which enable schools, educational settings and multi-academy trusts to deliver a great education.

We support those we work with to achieve successful long-term outcomes for their children.

We believe that every young person, through access to a great education, should be able to realise their potential, regardless of where they live, their background or circumstances.

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01438 544 464

[Visit our website](#)

