



# ABOYNE LODGE

CREATIVE • CURIOUS • CARING

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 21st April '23



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

It has been great to see the children back in school this week telling stories of their Easter holidays and what they have been up to over the break.

Over the Easter break we had the very sad news that Claire Kelly tragically passed away. Claire, left the school in Autumn 2021 and had been a teacher here for a number of years. While I didn't know her well, she had a huge impact on the teaching of music at Aboyne and was probably best known to the children and parents for teaching music, particularly the ukulele and violin. More importantly than that, she was a kind hearted person and very much loved by everyone who knew her. Our thoughts are with her family. We have a number of staff who will be attending the funeral on Tuesday. They would be happy to pass on any cards or messages of condolence for you.

I have written to parents about the two further scheduled strike days, planned for Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May. This will affect some year groups so please check your messages for full details.

A quick reminder that the Lodge building is being used as a polling station on Thursday 4th May Please be aware that there will be a bit of disruption during the day for the Reception children as we will be moving them into the main building for the day.

There is more positive news from the sports field, with the Year 5/6 hockey team winning the St Albans & Harpenden quick sticks hockey festival. This is a fantastic achievement and means that we will be representing the city in the Hertfordshire finals coming soon. Thank you to Mrs Hobbs, Archie Hobbs and Mr Leg for all your support, and very well played to all the children who took part.

There may be times when you have a concern or worry and need to contact a teacher directly. First and foremost, they all want the best for your children. Please remember that all communication, both to and from the school, should match the values of kindness and respect that we all hold dear.

And finally, I am sad to say that today was Millie Evans last day with us. Millie has worked as a TA in

Year 1 for the year and is going onto a role for Herts SEN team. We wish her the very best in her new home and in her new role. She will be missed.

Have a lovely weekend! Best wishes,  
Mr Smithard

LEARNING POWER CERTIFICATES  
*(awarded for reciprocity, resilience, resourcefulness and resourcefulness)*

Louis (Y4) Imogen (Y5) Bryony (Y6)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Tues 25th Apr - Year 4 start swimming

Thurs 27th April - Strike Day

Sun 30th Apr - Albert Hall Concert

Mon 1st May—Bank holiday

Tue 2nd May - Strike Day

Tue 2nd - Fri 5th May—Bikeability (Y5)

Thurs 4th May - Polling Day

Thurs 4th May - City Cup Finals Day  
(Girls Football)

Mon 8th May - Kings Coronation

## The Day the Crayons Quit by Oliver Jeffers Recommended by Lottie Y2

BOOK OF THE WEEK



“Duncan just wants to do some colouring - but when he opens his box of crayons, he finds a whole bundle of letters of complaint. The crayons aren't happy. Can Duncan come up with a solution to keep the crayons happy - before they quit colouring for good?”

## St Albans City Girls Cup - Thursday 4th May 2023

The Girls Football Team are playing in the St Albans City Cup finals day at Colney Heath Football Club (not the school). It would be fantastic to see lots of the community there supporting them. This is the culmination of the season with both of our teams winning their respective leagues and the B-team also having a great season.

There are four strong teams competing for the prestigious trophy. We wish the team the very best of luck!

Semi-Final - 4.15 p.m. Pitch 2 v Camp Primary

FINAL of Girls City Cup - 5.45 p.m Pitch 1

3rd Place Match for Girls City Cup 5.45 p.m. Pitch 2

### Attendance matters

You may have read that nationally pupil attendance is lower than before the pandemic and there has been a rise in persistent absence. While our overall attendance figures are high in respect to National data, there is still room to improve.

**What is persistent absence?** Children with an attendance level of below 90% would be classed as persistent absentees. If we put this into context a child with 90% absence misses nearly a whole month of schooling per year and more than half a year of school of their Primary schooling. That's half a year less opportunity to learn and succeed than their peers.

**What does the data show?** Pupils with higher attainment at KS2 and KS4 had lower levels of absence over the key stage compared to those with lower attainment.

Pupils who did not achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in 2019 had an overall absence rate of 4.7% over the key stage, compared with 3.5% among pupils who achieved the expected standard and 2.7% among those who achieved the higher standard.

Pupils who did not achieve grade 9 to 4 in English and maths GCSEs in 2019 had an overall absence rate of 8.8% over the key stage, compared with 5.2% among pupils who achieved a grade 4 and 3.7% among pupils who achieved grade 9 to 5 in both English and maths.

Among pupils with no missed sessions over KS2, 83.9% achieved the expected standard compared to 40.2% of pupils who were persistently absent.

