



ABOYNE LODGE

CREATIVE • CURIOUS • CARING

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 27th September '24



Dear Parents/Carers,

This week began with a special assembly from our new brass teacher, Mr Lewis Rowlands, who came in to demonstrate some of the different instruments and how they sound. He treated us to a performance of Harry Potter, star wars and Jurassic world to name a few, with the children getting involved too. We are delighted to now be offering lessons in the Trombone, Trumpet, French Horn and Baritone for children. Please register your interest as soon as possible by dropping an email to info@stalbansmusicacademy.co.uk. Places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

This week, the Year 5 footballers had their first game against St Albans and St Stephens (A three form intake school). The team didn't win this time, although there were lots to praise about the performance and they enjoyed the game. School football is meant to be inclusive so it is important that all of the children get a go on the pitch.

Thank you to Archie Hobbs for the work he is doing with the team.

On Thursday our Cross-country runners took part in the opening event at Colney Heath. The weather was not on our side with heavy rain falling on the runners. However despite the crazy weather, the children did amazingly well with 4 top 10 finishes. Pearl took the top spot in the girls race. Thank you to Mr Hobbs for his continued support.

We have our Harvest Festival coming up in a few weeks. Once again we are collecting donations for the local foodbank who provide a valuable services supporting families in need - currently 1 in 5 people in the UK live below the poverty line and the foodbank needs your help.

Most needed items at the moment include Long life milk and juices, pasta, baked beans, jams and spreads and small tea boxes. For more info please visit <https://stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Ciara and Matt Haley are in school next Wednesday to help us with our promotional video. Please remember to go onto Gateway if you do not consent to your child being filmed. We are looking for parents

willing to be interviewed so let us know.

I hope the quiz night goes well this evening and everyone has a good time. Have a lovely weekend.

HOT CHOCOLATE FRIDAY

Oliver Y, Harri, Peter, Orla, Hana, & Amber

EFFORT CERTIFICATES

Thea, Rita, Leo & Charlotte F

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon 30th Sept—Open the book Assembly

Weds 1st Oct - Girls Football V Abbey (H).

Weds 2nd Oct - Crash the curriculum morning.

Thu 3rd Sept - Netball v Fleetville (A)

Weds 16th & Weds 23rd Oct—Parent Consultations

*****ALSA notices*****

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

IT'S NOT TOO LATE to decide you'd like to come to tonight's quiz at Aboyne Lodge, 7pm-10pm, £10 per ticket, pay on the door.

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.

To find out more about the disco and other events, why not come along to ALSA's meeting on 30th September (see below for info).

Key dates for your diaries in 2024:

30th September: ALSA meeting and AGM, 7.30pm-9pm, school office

24th October – Halloween disco

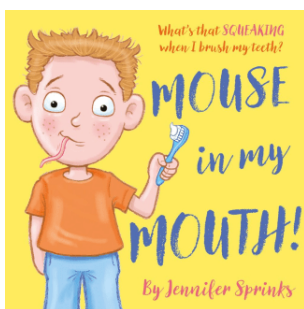
3rd December – Wreath making

6th December – Christmas Fair

And finally, last reminder about this ALSA fundraiser.

Aboyne mum Jennifer Sprinks has her second book Mouse in my Mouth! launching tomorrow. It is primarily for the 0 to 3 age range and is written to encourage good oral hygiene and toothbrushing.

To grab a discount and raise money for the school, visit jennifersprinks.co.uk and use code **AL2024**.



Get your copy for £8.49 with free shipping (RRP £8.99) and Jennifer will donate 20% of the full price to ALSA.

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.

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](#)

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](#)

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 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.



01438 544 464

[Visit our website](#)

