



# ABOYNE LODGE

CREATIVE • CURIOUS • CARING

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 6th September '24



Dear Parents/Carers,

From all of the staff here, I would like to wish all of our families, old and new, a warm welcome back to school. I have enjoyed hearing the children talking about their holidays, the amazing things that they have been up to over the Summer and wonderful places they have visited. It sounds like the summer camp was very popular this year too.

While you have been away there has been a lot of work going on. The teachers have been developing the classrooms so that they are lighter and more calming spaces with more green plants around.

In the playground the old green rubber surface next to the Reception classroom has been removed and replaced, opening up the area and making it more useable and welcoming for the new Reception children. The fencing around the area is due very soon and the next step is to purchase equipment for the children to hang and climb on. We are all delighted with how it is looking so far.

We were also very fortunate to have received a generous donation

from the Harling family which will be used to purchase some playground exercise /gym equipment which will go outside the Year 4 classroom. There are wider plans to improve the playground experience for the children in general including a calm space in one of the shed for quiet games such as Lego or puzzles.

The carpark gates are also due to be changed in the next few weeks.

With regards to the nursery building, Herts CC are currently drawing together the legal side of things such as the lease, so we don't have an exact date of when Albany Montessori will take over the building. I am hopeful this will be finalised reasonably quickly. so that we have a nursery on site soon.

We also welcome Debbie Symes to the team. She will be teaching in Year 6, Weds to Fri. Please say hello when you see her.

2025 is our 75th anniversary year, so the aim is to celebrate this in a variety of ways throughout the calendar year. Please keep your eye out for events, which we hope will include pupils, staff and families from past and present.

And finally, last term, the St Albans Headteachers, sent a message to parents about mobile phones and our hope that children remain without them for as long as possible. With this in mind, as much as possible, please try to stay off your mobiles when picking up the children.

I hope the sun stays out for all of you this weekend and that those of you going Pub in the Park have a great time.

Warmest wishes, Keith Smithard

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon 9th Sep - New to Year 1 Meeting @ 9am

Mon 9th Sept— Y5/6 Young Shakespeare company visit (MacBeth)

Tues 10th Sep - New to Y4 Meeting @ 9am

Weds 11th Sep—New to Y6 meeting @ 9am, New to Y2 meeting @2:45pm

Fri 13th Sep—Individual School Photos.

Weds 9th & Weds 16th Oct—Parent Consultations (TBC)

## Free School Meals

For many people, the last few years have been particularly tough. If you are struggling a bit financially, it may be that you qualify for free school meals. This also gives you access to free holiday activity camps and attracts some extra funding for the school, which can be used to support your child directly and wider school projects. Families who already qualify may also need to reapply. Go to the [Herts CC website](#) and follow the steps. If you do need help please let the office know and we'll help you through the process.

## SAFEGUARDING AT ABOYNE LODGE

At Aboyne Lodge, we take the safeguarding of our children extremely seriously. If you have a worry about a child please do not hesitate and get in touch. A small piece of information may add to a bigger picture or story that you are not aware of.

### When and what might I be concerned about?

At any time, you may be concerned about information which suggests a child is being neglected or experiencing physical, emotional or sexual harm. You may observe physical signs, notice changes in the child's behaviour or presentation, pick up signs of emotional distress or have a child disclose a harmful experience to you.

### Harm to a child can be caused by:

A parent/carer A family member/friend, another child, a stranger, or a member of staff or volunteer.

### What should I do if a child discloses that s/he is being harmed?

**Listen** - Listen carefully to what is being said to you, do not interrupt.

**Reassure** - Reassure the pupil that it is not their fault. Stress that it was the right thing to tell. Be calm, attentive and non-judgemental. Do not promise to keep what is said a secret. Ask non-leading questions (TED) to clarify if necessary:

**Tell me more...**

**Explain that to me...**

**Describe what happened....**

**Respond** – Make a written record (using the child's own words), sign and date it. As soon as possible, inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy DSL without delay or the Chair of Governors where appropriate - Alex Farely or Adam Brown).

### What should I do if the alleged abuser is a member of the school staff / volunteer?

If your concern is about a staff member or volunteer, you should report this to Mr Smithard the Head Teacher. If your concern is about the Head Teacher, you should report such allegations to the Chair of Governors. Contact details can be found at the bottom of this page.

The school has a Child Protection Policy and a copy is available on the school website's Statutory Information page here:

<https://www.aboyne.herts.sch.uk/statutory-info>

**In line with this, regardless of the source of harm, you MUST report your concern.**

**Head Teacher: & DSL** Keith Smithard **Deputy DSL:** Michelle Charsley & Hannah Porteous

Contact your DSL/DDSL at/on: 01727 849700

**Chair of Governors:** Adam Brown & Alex Farley

You can contact the Governors through the school office on 01727 849700

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

The ABOYNE LODGE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (ALSA) is a registered charity that brings together parents, staff and the local community to raise money through fun events and projects to help support Aboyne Lodge with much needed resources and fun activities for our children.

If you have any ideas to help us fundraise, or would like to get involved, please speak to your class rep.

Below are some key dates for your diaries in 2024:

- **27th September: Quiz Night, 7pm-10pm**

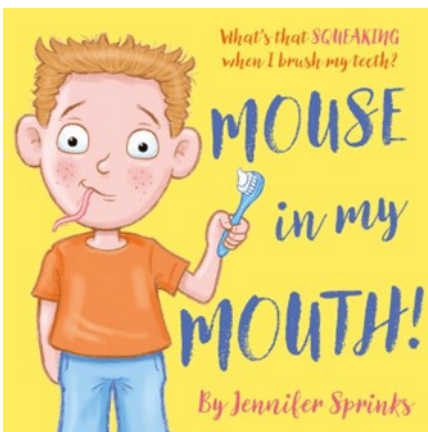
£10pp, teams up to eight people, book via Gateway

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

**And finally, one small ALSA fundraiser:**

Aboyne mum Jennifer Sprinks is due to have her second book *Mouse in my Mouth!* published on 28 September. It is a book aimed primarily at the 0 to 3 age range and is written to encourage good oral hygiene and toothbrushing.

For any parents interested in purchasing a copy, books cost £8.99 and Jennifer will donate 20% of each sale to ALSA. Copies can be purchased via [jennifersprinks.co.uk](http://jennifersprinks.co.uk) ahead of publication date.



To flag that you're an AL parent, please use discount code **AL2024** at checkout and get your copy for £8.49 (though Jennifer will donate 20% of the full price to ALSA). This code will also automatically bring up a 'free shipping' box as Jennifer will bring the books to school!

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