



# ABOYNE LODGE

CREATIVE • CURIOUS • CARING

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 15th September '23



Dear Parents/Carers,

We had more of our 'new to' meetings taking place this week. I must say that the attendance from parents has been fantastic and testament to the support you give us as a school. If you do have any questions that you didn't manage to ask at the time, please get in touch.

We had excellent progress and attainment outcomes for reading in Y6 last term. Y2 reading results were also above the national average and all of the children who took the phonics screening check passed. However, we are mindful that there are always areas we can improve on, and subsequently there are some big changes going on with reading this year. As I said last week we are sorting out the book stock so that children have access to good quality books. This means getting rid of the old stock, which in some areas looks quite tired. The aim is to make our bookshelves more accessible and inviting. I am pleased to say that we have managed to find a new home for the books which will be picked up next week.

Children in Reception & Key Stage 1 are taught through Read Write Inc.

and they take home books that are well matched to the sounds that they are learning in school. Historically, children in Key Stage 2 have gone through the banding system we recognise that this has led to children often having to read uninspiring books of varying age and quality. We want our children to be inspired to read, and therefore we are removing the banding system. Books have been carefully chosen in each classroom for the children's age range. From next week, they will be guided towards age appropriate books that they want to read and that inspire them. In doing so we want to give our children the best possible chance to develop a love for reading—after all, we know that children who read more, learn more and understand more.

Children are able to bring in good quality books to read at school from home too and please keep taking the time to hear the children read every day, even when they get further up the school. Children also love to be read to, so please do this often.

As always, if you have any questions please pop in and have a chat.

ALSA have put in a date for their

AGM—Tues 3rd Oct 7.30pm in the staff room at Aboyne. We do need to recruit a chair and secretary so please come along and put yourself forward. Without a chair, ALSA doesn't exist. It would be great to see lots of you there.

Have a lovely weekend!

Warmest wishes, Keith Smithard

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon 18th Sep—Watford FC positive Minds begins (Y6)

Thurs 21st Sept—Lego league starts (Y2)

Mon 25th Sep—Open the Book Assembly

Tue 26th Sep—European Day of Languages

Thurs 5th & Tues 10th Oct—Parent Consultations

## 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 (Mr Smithard) or Deputy DSL (Mrs Clinton) 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:** Ruth Clinton

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