



ABOYNE LODGE

CREATIVE • CURIOUS • CARING

GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER SUMMER TERM 2022

Dear parents and carers,

Another term (and year!) at Aboyne Lodge is drawing to a close. It's been a really great year that has seen the school getting back to more normality – Covid is less dominant (although doesn't seem to be going away) and we're enjoying being fully back in the main building.

We're also at the end of Mr. Smithard's first year as Head Teacher with some of the changes that he has brought in beginning to have an impact.

Curriculum & SATS

One of the key changes that Mr Smithard has implemented is a root and branch review of the curriculum. The outcomes are an up to date, broad and sequenced curriculum. The staff have worked incredibly hard throughout the year to implement changes which are already showing positive signs.

We've only just received the Y6 SAT results - and don't yet have all the national data - but they look really positive – particularly in Maths.

Extra curricula & events

The number of events and activities that have been happening in the school is fantastic. From end of year productions to Viking day the range and quality of the experience for the children has been amazing.

ALSA have continued to be a driving force behind the school community with many of us enjoying events such as the Summer Ball and Summer Fair. We are really grateful for their enthusiasm and the money they raise which supports so many aspects of the school.

Finance

We have previously reported on the difficult position with regards the school's finances. Aboyne Lodge suffers from being a single form entry school in a relatively affluent area, so has to support all of its costs with less children and less subsidies. Government funding is not sufficient to pay for the costs of the school. We have submitted a deficit budget and will continue to work with Hertfordshire County Council to manage the budget through the year.

The proposed closure of the nursery is one of the measures being looked at, that will help put the school on a better financial footing, which in turn will mean we can spend more money on the core educational offer.

There are some positives – the completion of the building work has allowed rental income to increase as clubs and community use returns.

Aboyne Lodge Foundation

The Aboyne Lodge Foundation enables the school to raise funds through donations from parents that can be used to improve the educational offer at the school. In the last year we have used this money to purchase new IT equipment which we would not have otherwise been able to afford. Raising funds through the Aboyne Lodge Foundation for these educational essentials allows ALSA funds to be focused on other things

that elevate the experience of the children.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their donations to date.

Please note that there has been a change to the account number of the Aboyne Lodge Foundation – if you haven't managed to do this already, please move any payments across to the following details:

Account number: 60191690

Sort code: 82-11-07

Registered charity number: 1179532

Gift Aid forms are available from the school office.

School environment

All of the building works are complete now and the removal of the old Year 6 classroom makes the playground feel much more open. The sensory garden has been completed and is looking fantastic. The school and ALSA are looking at further funding options for the project and we'd welcome any ideas or expertise that you might have.

Parent Survey 2022

You will have received a note about the Parent survey 2022 which is now live. Please do take the time to fill this in. It's really useful in helping us think about how we can make improvements to the school and we want as many voices to be heard as possible.

The Governing Board

The Governing Board comprises a mixture of staff, community (co-opted) and Local Authority volunteers and parents. Our key roles are to oversee the strategic direction of the school; to support and hold the headteacher to account; and to ensure the school's financial wellbeing. We also support the school on specific projects and we carry out various 'link' roles relating to the school curriculum and strategic priorities.

Since the last newsletter the composition of the board has changed a little. We'd like to say a big thank you to Clare Sayce who has stepped down after a number of years as a parent governor and most recently Co-Chair. We have now held an election and welcome Nadine Farrar-Hockley to the governing body. Adam Brown has agreed to become Co-Chair alongside Alex Farley.

Here's a list of the current members of the board and our responsibilities:

Keith Smithard	Staff	Headteacher	
Alex Leech	Staff	Teacher	
Kirsten Landau	Staff	School Business Manager	
Alex Farley	Parent	Co-Chair	Data & performance monitoring
Adam Brown	Parent	Co-Chair	Health & Safety, Arts, Governor Development
Olly Milton	Co-opted	Vice Chair	PE, Premises and Sustainability
Rob Blok	Parent,	Chair of Resources Committee	Humanities (History, Geography, RE)

Dan Smith	Co-opted,	Chair of School Improvement Committee	Safeguarding, PPG, English
Tina Shaw	Local Authority	Clerk of School Improvement Committee	Inclusion, STEM
Tom Walsh	Co-opted	Clerk of Resources Committee	Maths, Grievance & Discipline
Nadine Farrar-Hockley	Parent	Resources Committee	TBC

We're always looking to co-opt governors from the community and to improve the diversity and representation on the board. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please get in touch!

Thank you!

We'd like to thank the staff of Aboyne Lodge who have worked extremely hard under difficult circumstances. This year they have had the challenges of the pandemic and the consultation process to contend with. Despite this they have embraced the changes that Mr. Smithard has introduced with real enthusiasm and energy.

We'd also like to thank all our parent and community volunteers who run events, support reading, contribute to various extracurricular activities and so much more. It all makes the education offered by Aboyne Lodge that much richer.

We wish those children leaving Aboyne Lodge to start secondary school all the best. And for everyone else, we hope you have a lovely summer holiday and look forward to seeing you at the start of the next academic year in September!

Best wishes

Alex Farley & Adam Brown

Co-Chairs, on behalf of the full governing board

