



Aboyne Lodge School

Etna Road

St Albans

Herts AL3 5NL

Tel: 01727 849700

Headteacher: Amanda Abley MA

Email: admin@aboyne.herts.sch.uk

September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to you with an update on the school's financial position, and to provide details of how Parents, Carers and other family members can provide additional support by making donations to the school.

School's Financial Position

As you will know from our previous letters, changes to the way schools are funded and increasing costs are making it increasingly difficult for schools to balance the books. As a single form intake school Aboyne Lodge has been particularly impacted by these costs and in recent financial years has had to implement cost saving measures with the support of the Local Authority, including a reduction in teaching assistants. Aboyne Lodge is by no means the only school in Hertfordshire under such financial pressure.

Current Position: For the 2019/20 financial year the School did a great job in managing to break even for the year and repay an historic carried forward loss from previous years to end up overall positive (by a few hundred pounds).

Position for 2020-21: However, for 2020/21, as a result of projected cost increases, it is anticipated that the school will once again fall into deficit. The result is that the School must, with the assistance of Hertfordshire County Council, put a cost cutting plan in place. You will appreciate that is difficult as the School already closely watches its costs, having reduced them over the last few years. While we will continue to keep costs under close review, it is important that we also look at the income of the School.

Sources of Income: In addition to government funding, the School is dependent on additional revenues from:

- (i) Income from lettings: As you will appreciate, lettings income has effectively been stopped by the lockdown and by the school building project. Once the building work has finished, the school will be in a position to increase lettings again which will be a great help.

- (ii) Donations from ALSA: We are incredibly grateful to ALSA for all their support and to all the parents for their support for ALSA. ALSA plays a vital part in the school community and it helps fund many of the projects around the school that make Aboyne Lodge special. The School and Governors are keen for ALSA to remain focused on funding projects that enhance the Aboyne Lodge experience for children, rather than raise funds for essential expenses. We work with ALSA closely and as the building work completes, there will be a number of potential items that ALSA can raise funds for.

- (iii) Parent Donations to the School Foundation: In the last couple of years the Governors and school have looked to increase income from parent donations. This has included setting up a charitable trust, the Aboyne Lodge Foundation, to enable donations to be eligible for gift aid. We asked last year for parents to consider donations by direct debit and we are truly grateful to those who were able to support in this way.

Donations

Both the staff and Governors are of course keen to maintain the outstanding education and support that the school provides to the children, hence this request for people to consider making donations to the School including, if possible, setting up a direct debit and making a Gift Aid election. Unfortunately, asking for donations is necessary given the financial pressures to which the School is subject. Other schools in St Albans and elsewhere have taken similar steps.

We fully understand the financial pressures that families are under (at this time in particular) and we do not want to ask parents for money. However, the reality is that the School is dependent on donations to remain financially sustainable.

The School also recognises that some parents and carers may object in principle to these arrangements, and that many will simply not be in a position to consider contributing, especially at this difficult time. **To be clear, there is no obligation to make any contribution.**

Donations are entirely confidential, and of course no advantages or disadvantages would be felt by children according to whether their Parents or Carers had or had not contributed. Donations are also separate from existing arrangements relating to contributions towards school trips, which will continue to apply, and to ALSA who will continue to raise funds for projects which improve the experience of our children in the school.

Donations are paid into a separate fund that will be used to support teachers and maintain and improve learning facilities and to buy teaching resources e.g. reading books, PE and music equipment and stationery. The fund will be overseen and managed by trustees, who are also Teachers and Governors, and they will work in partnership with the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that contributions are used effectively.

To maximise the value of any donations should be made to the registered charity, the Aboyne Lodge Foundation, which means that UK taxpayers can choose to Gift Aid their donations e.g. for every £10 paid with Gift Aid the school will receive an additional £2.50 from the UK government.

Details of how to donate and ensure that we can recover Gift Aid are contained on the following page.

Based on the forecast deficit we would like to suggest a voluntary donation of £10-20 per child, per month and that to avoid the need for further follow up letters consideration be given to payment by way of a standing order, as explained below. This is a suggested level of voluntary contribution and should you wish to make a donation of a different amount that would also be gratefully received.

Thank you for your ongoing support and kindness. It means a huge amount to all of us. As always, if you have any comments on this letter or other school funding matters please contact us at governors@aboyne.herts.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

David Hope
Chair of Governors

Payment options

1. Standing Order

A Standing Order can be set up to make regular donations to The Aboyne Lodge Foundation, the details of which are below. **Please ensure that you use the reference below on your payment.**

2. Bank transfer

Donations can be made online, directly from your bank account to the The Aboyne Lodge Foundation, the details of which are set out below. **When making online payments please ensure that you use the reference given below.**

3. Bank cheques

Bank cheques can be handed in at reception, marked for the attention of "The Aboyne Lodge Foundation". Please make cheques payable to The Aboyne Lodge Foundation.

Donations account details

Name of Bank:	Virgin Money
Account Name:	The Aboyne Lodge Foundation
Account Number:	00000515
Sort Code:	08-61-15
Reference:	52135D-05481
Charity Number:	1179532



Gift Aid Declaration

Your details (Block Capitals Please)

Title	Forename(s)
Surname	
Full Home Address and postcode	

Declaration (if applicable, in order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below):

I want to Gift Aid my voluntary contribution of £_____ and any donations or contributions I make in the future or have made in the past 2 years to The Aboyne Lodge Foundation.

Signed.....Date:

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of the Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Please notify the School Office if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please return the original signed copy of this form to: School Office, Aboyne Lodge Primary School or, by email to admin@aboyne.herts.sch.uk

Thank you very much indeed for your kind donation, the School is very grateful for your support.