



CREATIVE, CURIOUS, CARING



Aboyne Lodge Primary School

# Weekly Bulletin

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October '21

[WWW.ABOYNE.HERTS.SCH.UK](http://WWW.ABOYNE.HERTS.SCH.UK)

### A message from the Head

Dear Parents/Carers,

We started the week with our virtual Harvest festival which was led by Mrs. Handley, who spoke about sustainability and how many families now rely on support from foodbanks. Thank you all for your generous contributions to the Harvest festival. All of the food collected is being taken to our local foodbank and they are extremely grateful for the support.

On Wednesday we held our second lot of Autumn term parent consultations. From our perspective, holding them virtually is a good system that enables everyone to get their full time allocation without distractions. I anticipate that we will continue to use the online system moving forwards, but do appreciate your feedback. We have been able to resolve the issue of more than one parent getting onto the call at a time, which is thanks to feedback from a parent. If you have any comments, please get in touch.

Today the children in Year 2 had a great time at Paradise Wildlife park, where they got the chance to see an array of different animals (my favourite were the red pandas). Thank you to everyone who helped out today, especially Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Lockwood for arranging it all.

This week I had to speak to Public Health about the rise in Covid cases at the school, with one-year group being particularly affected. I'd like to wish everyone who is off a swift recovery. For many it is a mild virus, but for some it can be a really uncomfortable experience so we all wish you well and are looking forward to everyone being back safe and sound. The school is taking precautions in line with public health's advice. Thank you for all your support with this - hopefully things will settle down a bit after the half term break.

You may have seen my email about our before and after school club. After many years working with ABC...XYZ, we have decided to take the provision back in house. I would like to thank them for all their hard work over the years. We will be in touch with further details on bookings and arrangements in the up and coming weeks.

And finally, thank you to everyone for your support with ALSA's Halloween Spooktacular. All of the funds raised are used to support the children here.

Have a lovely half term week and we all look forward to seeing you back here safely on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

Warmest wishes, Keith Smithard

### Hot Chocolate Friday

*Congratulations to the following children for always going over and above with their behaviour who received a treat today:*

- Y1 – Alba
- Y2 – Lily
- Y3 – Dylan
- Y4 – Rishi
- Y5 – Charlotte B
- Y6 – Darlene

### Upcoming events:

- 22.10.21 – Y2 Trip to Paradise Wildlife Park**
- 25.10.21 – 29.10.21 Half Term Break (no school)**
- 01.11.21 – Back to school**
- 01.11.21 – Preet Cox in to do Diwali Talk in Y5**
- 04.11.21 – Cross Country (Wheatfields)**
- 05.11.21 – YN and Sibling Photos**

**Stormbreaker**  
By Anthony Horowitz  
Recommended by Senuli (Year 6)

Book of the Week



'This is an exciting, action packed and adventure book. It's the first in the Alex Ryder series' - Senuli

**Messages from the Office:**

**Parking:** We have received many complaints of a Aboyne parent parking across the pedestrian crossing every day opposite school. Please can we ask that you do not park here as you are making it unsafe for families to cross the road. The parking permits issued by school mean you can only park in bays and NOT on yellow lines.

**Volunteers:** If you would like to become a regular volunteer at school then you will need to have a DBS check done. To do this, we will need to see some ID, ideally your driving licence, passport and current years' council tax bill. Please bring the originals to the office so we can start the process. You will also need to get a character reference (Forms available from the office)

**UPDATE** – Once you have received your DBS certificate, please bring it into the office as we have one final check to do. Thank you.

**How can I help at home? 50 things to do before you're 5**

Hertfordshire have launched their new app, 50 Things To Do Before You're Five, which gives you 50 activities that parents and carers can support their children to try out and repeat. Each of the 50 Things have been carefully developed by education experts and early years practitioners following consultation with parents, and they've made sure that children with special education needs are included and that each of the 50 Things means something across our culturally diverse communities. The activities are all free or low cost and will give you lots of ways to enjoy time with your younger children.



**50** things to do

Download the app  
for activities in  
Hertfordshire

Scan me!



**50**  
things to do  
before you're  
**five**

## A message from ALSA

Hi all

ALSA stuff for this week:

- **SPOOKTACULAR: PUMPKIN HUNT TRAIL** - free for all to enter, 1 prize per class
- **XMAS JUMPERS!!!!**- they're back! Order by 31 OCT (Gateway)
- **SECONDHAND XMAS JUMPER SALE** - to be held in Nov, donations requested.
- **QUIZ NIGHT** - 12 Nov - going virtual- buy tickets now (Gateway)
- **ALSA SURVEY RESULTS**
- **ALSA XMAS CARDS** - order online and return artwork form by 1 NOV
- **XMAS PUDDINGS & STICKY TOFFEE PUDS** - order by 1 NOV (Gateway)

Details below!

### 🎃 SPOOKTACULAR - HALF TERM FUN 🎃

The first part of the Spooktacular happened yesterday - we hope the children enjoyed their film and popcorn!

ALSA is also running a Pumpkin Hunt trail around St Albans for you and your children. The trail map and the two answer sheets are attached. The pumpkins are already up and will be there until Halloween.

Go to each address on the map and find the pumpkin- collect the letter on the pumpkin (these will spell out a magical spell when put together) and answer the riddle.

If you wish to enter the prize draw, email the 10 riddle answers and the completed magical spell to:

ALSAevents1@gmail.com by **31 OCTOBER**.

Please include the child's name and year group in the subject line.

One winner from each year group will be chosen at random from the correct entries and announced after half term.

The trail is free to enter for all Aboyne children in Years R to 6 but, if you haven't already done so, please consider donating £5 to ALSA (via Gateway)

### **ALSA CHRISTMAS JUMPERS - Have your'elf a merry little Christmas! ★**

ALSA jumpers are back and this year feature a cute elf design. The children may wear the jumper (and previous years' jumpers if they have them) to school during all of December instead of their usual school jumper.

They are available to order now on Gateway at £12 each and come in sizes 2/3y, 3/4y, 5/6y, 7/8y, 9/10y & 11/12y. **Please place your order by SUN 31 OCTOBER.** Delivery is expected around end of Nov.

Please pay via Gateway and use the text box to indicate how many jumpers you want and in what size. If ordering for more than one child, please order each child's jumper(s) via their own individual Gateway account - this will make it much easier for us to distribute the jumpers to each class!

### **\* SECONDHAND SALE - CHRISTMAS JUMPERS \***

As part of being a greener PTA, ALSA hope to hold a secondhand Christmas jumper sale in November. We already have a few, but if you have any jumpers that no longer fit and you wish to donate them, please could you drop them into the office in the first couple of weeks after half term. **NB We are only asking for the yellow Christmas jumpers previously sold by ALSA (not other types of Christmas jumper nor general uniform at this time).** Thanks so much.

A message from ALSA Continued.....

**🔍 QUIZ NIGHT - 12 NOV, 8PM 🔍**

Due to the number of Covid cases in school and ongoing uncertainty, we have decided to make the quiz a virtual one. Fear not though, it will still be a brilliant night of fun!

The quiz will be hosted by the amazing Dr Paul, a professional (and very funny) quizmaster who did last year's quiz for us. Teams can have up to 8 people in them. For those of you who didn't do last year's quiz, Dr Paul arranges "breakout rooms" so you can chat and confer with team mates. There'll also be lots of amazing prizes - not just for the winning team but also special spot prizes scattered throughout the evening.

Tickets cost £7.50 each and are available now on Gateway. If you already know who is going to be in your team, please state it in the text box. If you want to let us know nearer the time about teams, that's fine too. We can also sort teams for you if you haven't got one sorted. Details of how to join the quiz will follow nearer the time.

**? ALSA SURVEY - The results are in! ?**

Thanks so much to everyone who completed the survey. A summary of the results is attached. These results will help inform us where you would like to see funds to be spent and help us decide what fundraising events to run. There were some great ideas, so thanks again.

**🎄 ALSA CHRISTMAS CARDS 🎄**

An artwork form featuring your child's wonderful Christmas card design went home this week. You can buy cards, gift labels, wrapping paper, mugs and more featuring this design. ALSA receive a contribution for every product ordered.

Please note, your child's design will look EVEN BETTER once professionally printed! You can choose the greeting with appears inside the cards (or create your own or leave blank).

NB We are using a new card company so the order process may be different to the one you remember from previous years.

To order:

**1. GO ONLINE**

Go to <https://cauliflowergroup.co.uk> and create an account. When prompted, enter both parts of the \*Parent order code\* found on the top left of the paper artwork form.

Order and pay for your goods online.

**2. TICK THE BOX** in section 2 of the artwork form to confirm you have ordered.

**3. RETURN THE ARTWORK FORM TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE ON MONDAY 1 NOVEMBER.** If you do not return the artwork form to school by then, the printers will not be able to create your items.

The final products should be delivered to school around the w/c 29 November.

If you do not wish to order, please keep your child's artwork and do not return it to school.

A message from ALSA Continued.....

 **LUXURY ALSA CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS - BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!** 

ALSA are again selling Ultimate Plum Puddings and Sticky Toffee Puddings. Each pud costs £7 and serves 3/4. They make great gifts...but are so nice you'll probably want a few for yourself too! 😊

Please place your order on Gateway as soon as possible and by Monday 1 November and use the comment box to indicate how many of each flavour you want to order (e.g. "2xplum and 3xtoffee")

Here is a bit more about the puddings:

The recipe has been used by Fortnum and Mason and is a family recipe going back over 30 years. It's packed with fruits and nuts with good sloshes of brandy and dry sherry but it's not heavy or bitter. In 2019 the bakery added another recipe from The Ultimate Plum Pudding Company - their scrumptious Sticky Toffee Pudding with its integral sauce.

Finally, they come with a bespoke Aboyne Lodge label (designed by Aboyne mum Sarah Shaw) and make great Christmas presents.

Thanks for your support. Have a great half term!

## A message from ALSA Continued.....

### ALSA 2021 Parent Survey

1. What ALSA events do you and your family enjoy attending? Tick all Applicable

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Quiz night	37.50%	21
2 Christmas Fair	87.50%	49
3 Christmas Disco	58.93%	33
4 Wreath Making	37.50%	21
5 Pantomime	75.00%	42
6 Wine Tasting Night	41.07%	23
7 Easter Egg Hunt	64.29%	36
8 Bike Day	44.64%	25
9 Summer Ball	44.64%	25
10 Summer Fair	85.71%	48
11 Summer Disco	76.79%	43
12 Other (please specify):	3.57%	2
	answered	56
	skipped	1

2. What other fundraising initiatives do you & your children enjoy? Tick all Applicable

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Cake Sales	75.44%	43
2 Non uniform Days	84.21%	48
3 Bags2School	50.88%	29
4 Christmas Cards	82.46%	47
5 Christmas Jumpers	71.93%	41
6 Christmas Gin	22.81%	13
7 Christmas Puddings	52.63%	30
8 Self Portrait Tea Towels	66.67%	38
9 Other (please specify):	5.26%	3
	answered	57
	skipped	0

Other suggestions for future fundraising activities included:

Halloween disco, teacher forfeits, movie night, remote quiz, auction, sponsored walks or silences, sponsored activities for parents using Justgiving pages and - where possible- company match funding, more food stalls at fairs, comedy night, year group drinks, bake off, art competitions, football day, sports events, school charity show, camping, themed disco night (for adults), a "Pub in the Park" inspired event with food, drink, live music, "Fair Enough" (a £50 donation in return for not helping at any events)

8. Is there anything specific you would like to see ALSA fund? Please tick as many options as you like and add any ideas & comments you have.

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Library Books	38.18%	21
2 Staffing costs like KS2 Teaching assistant	50.91%	28
3 Classroom equipment	58.18%	32
4 IT equipment	54.55%	30
5 Support materials for teachers like Twinkl	21.82%	12
6 Sports equipment	56.36%	31
7 Playground equipment	67.27%	37
8 In-school experiences provided by visiting specialists	58.18%	32
9 School trips	49.09%	27
10 Outdoor classroom/learning area	56.36%	31
11 Forest school facilities/activities	67.27%	37
12 Improving facilities at Normandy Road such as portaloos	41.82%	23
13 Other (please specify):	7.27%	4
	answered	55
	skipped	2

The following ideas for how to spend ALSA funds were also suggested: Musical instrument lessons, facilitating sports days at Normandy Road, funding for short one-to-one lessons to help children struggling with a subject.

A message from ALSA Continued.....



# ALSA CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

## HAVE YOUR'ELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS!

AVAILABLE IN SIZES:  
2/3y, 3/4y, 5/6y, 7/8y, 9/10y & 11/12y

CUTE ELF DESIGN!



ALSA Christmas jumpers are back and better than ever!

Jumpers cost £12 and come in the sizes indicated above. They are made in the UK from knitted acrylic and are machine washable.

The children may wear the jumper (and previous years' jumpers if they have them) to school during all of December instead of their usual school jumper.

As well as spreading festive cheer, the sale of the jumpers will support a great cause. All profits go to ALSA and help fund equipment and experiences for the children at Aboyne Lodge.

If you wish to order, please pay via School Gateway and use the text box to indicate how many jumpers you want and the desired size. If you wish to place orders for more than one child, you must order each child's jumper(s) via their own individual Gateway account. This will make it much easier for us to distribute the jumpers for each class.

The deadline for placing orders is  
**SUNDAY 31 OCTOBER so put your order in now!**

A message from ALSA continued...

ALSA



# Christmas puddings

£7 PER PUD (SERVES 3-4)

ORDER ON GATEWAY BY MON 1 NOVEMBER



ALSA IS SELLING CHRISTMAS  
PUDDINGS!

CHOOSE FROM ULTIMATE PLUM  
PUDDING OR STICKY TOFFEE.

GREAT GIFTS!  
EACH PUD FEATURES THIS CUTE  
ABOYNE LABEL.