



# ABOYNE LODGE

CREATIVE • CURIOUS • CARING

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 16th December '22



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been a chilly one this week, after the snow came down on Sunday night/Monday morning. While the majority of schools in the area took the decision to close we remained open thanks to the staff doing their best to get in. Particular thanks go to David Hobbs, who was up early gritting the pathways and the car-park so that we could open the doors. It was lovely seeing the children outside playing in the snow and great to see their smiling faces as they ran out to the untouched snow.

There were lots of things happening this week, starting with the Year 5 mini-police assembly. This is the second year that we have worked with Herts Constabulary who come in and teach the children about social responsibility and the police's role in our community. Thank you to the officers for coming in again: we hope to see them next year.

We also had our Reception Christmas performance this week. It's really not Christmas until the little ones perform. They did fantastically well, singing and dancing beautiful-

ly. Thank you to the Reception team for all of your hard work.

Over the last two days we have had our end of term music performance. The children who are learning instruments get the chance to play in front of the school and their parents. I think it's amazing how many children are now learning an instrument compared to last year when we had a handful of musicians. Many thanks to the music team under Karen Dore's organisation for all their hard work.

From next week Kelly Scanes will be off on maternity leave—we wish her the very best. We also would like to say a warm welcome to Michelle Charsley who will be stepping in to Year 4 from January. Please give her a warm welcome when you see her.

This will likely be the last bulletin of the year. **School ends on Wednesday at 1:30pm.** From all of us in the Aboyne team we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year. We hope that that you all have a wonderful festive break and a good rest.

Warmest wishes, Keith Smithard

LEARNING POWER CERTIFICATES  
*(awarded for reciprocity, resilience, resourcefulness and resourcefulness)*

Amelie & Ruvindi (Y6) Idy (Y5)  
Isaac (Y2) Bobby (Y1)

HOT CHOCOLATE FRIDAY—  
congratulations to these children  
who have gone 'over and above' this  
week

Mariia, Emily, Mia, Matilda, Georgia

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon 19th Dec—Watford FC Positive  
Minds Assembly

Mon 19th Dec—KS1 Christingle  
making and assembly

Tues 20th Dec—Year 3/4 Christmas  
Party.

Tues 20th Dec— Reception Christ-  
mas Party.

Weds 21st Dec—School finishes  
1:30pm

## The Christmasaurus by Tom Fletcher Recommended by Will(Y5)



“This is a story about a boy named William Trundle and a dinosaur named the Christmasaurus. It's about how they meet one Christmas Eve and have a magical adventure. It's about friendship and families, sleigh bells and Santa, singing elves and flying reindeer.”

## MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

### Next Thing Education Christmas Tech Camp

Next Thing are running a camp at Aboyne on 22nd, 23rd, 28th, 29th, 30th December and on 3rd & 4th January. If you are interested in booking your child on, please visit [www.nextthing.education](http://www.nextthing.education)

Next Thing are offering places under HCC's HAPpy Scheme for families in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals. If this applies to you, please speak to Jennie or Kirsten for the booking code.

### Extra-Curricular Clubs

All clubs have finished for this term, with the exception of Multi-Sports which will run on Tuesday 20th December.

### Spring term milk

This is now available on Gateway to order and pay.

## Attendance matters

You may have read in the press that Amanda Spielman, Ofsted's Chief Inspector of Schools, said that pupil attendance was lower than before the pandemic and there has been a rise in persistent absence. While our overall attendance figures are high in respect to National data, there is still room to improve.

**What is persistent absence?** Children with an attendance level of below 90% would be classed as persistent absentees. If we put this into context a child with 90% absence misses nearly a whole month of schooling per year and more than half a year of school of their Primary schooling. That's half a year less opportunity to learn and succeed than their peers.

**What does the data show?** Pupils with higher attainment at KS2 and KS4 had lower levels of absence over the key stage compared to those with lower attainment.

Pupils who did not achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in 2019 had an overall absence rate of 4.7% over the key stage, compared with 3.5% among pupils who achieved the expected standard and 2.7% among those who achieved the higher standard.

Pupils who did not achieve grade 9 to 4 in English and maths GCSEs in 2019 had an overall absence rate of 8.8% over the key stage, compared with 5.2% among pupils who achieved a grade 4 and 3.7% among pupils who achieved grade 9 to 5 in both English and maths.

Among pupils with no missed sessions over KS2, 83.9% achieved the expected standard compared to 40.2% of pupils who were persistently absent.

