



PROUD OF OURSELVES, PROUD OF OTHERS, PROUD OF OUR SCHOOL



Aboyne Lodge Primary School

Weekly Bulletin

Friday 1st October '21

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A message from the Head

Dear Parents/Carers,

This month seems to have flown by with October already upon us. You should have received an email yesterday outlining the information for our parent's consultation evening - the booking system is now open until Friday 8th October. To book, simply log on via the link <https://aboynelodge.parentseveningsystem.co.uk> where you will need to enter your name and email address as well as your child's name and date of birth. This system allows parents to view all siblings under the one log-in. I have been informed that two parents are not able to join from separate locations at the same time. I recognise that this could be a bit frustrating for some people. We will feed this back to the company and see what we can do to improve the system next time.

I am sad to announce that our music teacher, Claire Kelly, has made the decision to leave us. Having worked at the school for 13 years, she has done lots to develop singing at the school and will be known to many of you for teaching our children various instruments including the Ukulele. This was not a decision that was taken lightly, and she

has told me that she will miss everyone here very much. We all wish her well in the future.

Many of you will have seen on Class Dojo that we are seeing the number of cases of Covid grow within the community. I can confirm that we have had our first case involving a child, which was confirmed late last night. From talking to families who have been affected, if they have had any symptoms, they have mirrored that of a common cold. I understand that for some parents the news is a bit unsettling, but I can assure you that the school is following the Government guidance. We are fortunate that we have large classrooms and corridors as well as a state of the art ventilation system which monitors CO2 and keeps air flowing around the building. Please continue to get tests if you are concerned and I will do my best to keep you updated as things progress.

I have a couple of thankyou's to make this week. First of all, thank you to Mr Smith, who managed to get us some computer bases which will enable us to set up our computer suite again. Secondly thank you to Mr Babcock, who has lent us some much needed speakers for the hall. It is very much appreciated.

Have a lovely weekend. Best wishes,
Mr. Smithard

Hot Chocolate Friday

Congratulations to the following children for always going over and above with their behaviour:

Y1 - Thomas

Y2 - Julia

Y3 - Holly

Y4 - Imogen

Y5 - Claude

Y6 - George

Upcoming events:

7.10.21 – Travelling Bookfair Arrives in school

8.10.21 – Y3 Sharing Assembly @ 9am

12.10.21 – Cross County at St Columbus 4pm

13.10.21 – Parents Evening (please refer to our email) 3.30-6.30pm

20.10.21 – Parents Evening (please refer to our email) 3.30-6.30pm

14.10.21 – Travelling Bookfair Departs

How to Grow a Dinosaur
By Caryl Hart and Ed Eaves
Recommended by Alex (Year 2)



Book of the Week

“Take one packet of dinosaur seeds and sprinkle over a vegetable patch...Albie is about to have the craziest, most amazing adventure ever. Gardening has never been so much fun!”

Messages from the Office:

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).

Morrisons ‘Good to Grow’ Scheme:

We have signed up to be part of the Morrisons ‘Good to Grow’ voucher collection scheme. For every £10 spent in Morrisons, shoppers receive a voucher which can then be donated to school and used towards obtaining some free gardening equipment. If you, family or friends shop at Morrisons, please do collect vouchers and send them into school. We are keen to continue giving the children the opportunity to grow and learn about plants in our Environmental Area.

How can I help at home? Science

There are plenty of ways that parents can promote science at home and spark your children’s interest. Dr Fred Stein suggests that parents should try to encourage scientific thinking and provide science opportunities for children wherever possible. One of the key ways is to model curiosity, which he describes as the most essential trait of a scientist. It is important to ask questions and express an interest in finding out more about what you notice and read. See if you can find out answers to questions by trying things out.

Some questions lend themselves better to casual experiments than others, such as, “Will seeds in the fruits and vegetables we eat grow?” “What food does our dog like best?” or “Which is the best biscuit for dunking?” Others may require consulting a resource such as books or the internet such as, “Why is the sky blue?” or “How is a black hole formed?” It’s most important to communicate the idea that you can find out answers to your own questions, and that the most reliable answers are the ones you find through your own experiments because you don’t have to take someone else’s word for it.

You can also promote science by:

- Visiting a science museum, zoo or aquarium (when things reopen)
- Gardening together
- Building something together such as a solar cooker or a windmill
- Watching science programs on television such as The Blue Planet or Spring Watch
- Purchasing or borrowing books from a library on topics that interest your child
- Participating in programs that expose children to nature, such as the Cubs or Guides

After lockdown there are a host of resources available at home that you can tap into if your children love science. One particularly good place to visit is the Royal Society’s webpage: <https://royalsociety.org/> or the National Geographic site: <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/category/discover/science/>

A message from ALSA

Firstly, a big THANK YOU for all your help with the Autumn Fair. All that volunteering, donating - and of course, attending! - made for a massively successful event. We raised approx £3,60 which is great news for the school! Thank you also to everyone for trying out the new token system - expect to see it at future events!

FORGOT/COULDN'T COME TO THE FAIR BUT STILL WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

It's not too late, just head over to <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/Clearconsciencefairfund?success=true>

(or go to justgiving.com and search for ALSA) and donate to ALSA via our Clear Conscience Fair Fund!

Some people have been asking: Where does ALSA money go? Quite simply, it goes to the school. The school will often have a priority list of things they would like ALSA to fund (for their current list, see below under "AGM"). It's your PTA too though so if you have any ideas of what you think ALSA should be spending money on, or have fundraising ideas, please let your year rep know and/or come along to the next ALSA meeting (which will be in November - date tbc).

PANTO 2021 - OH NO IT ISN'T or OH YES IT IS?

ALSA normally obtain a block of 300 discounted tickets for the Alban Arena panto for a Sunday in December which we then sell to Aboyne families. Unfortunately, the Alban Arena has had to cut short the panto season this year and our date was one of those that was cut.

We are so sorry that we can't offer our usual panto deal to you all. We have however secured 99 seats for the 6pm showing on Saturday 11 December 2021.

This year's panto is Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Seats are in the upper circle (both sides) and some may have a restricted view so this will not be the normal ALSA experience where we would all be sat together in the stalls. It's the best we can do this year though and we're sure it will still be a great, festive night out!

Tickets cost £19 each, some of which will go to ALSA. As we have only 99 tickets, this year we are asking for you to please log into Gateway and state how many tickets you require. ALSA will then contact you if you are successful and with 'how to pay' instructions. This is on a first come first served basis. Gateway will open at 4pm today and will close at midnight on Sunday.

PANTO 2022 -NORMAL SERVICE WILL BE RESUMED- HOORAY!

We have already secured 330 seats for the stalls for next year's panto (on Sunday 11th December 2022, 5pm). Phew! More details on that next year!

AGM - *this is just a summary... full minutes are available via your reps*

ALSA had its AGM on Monday at the school. Thank you to all those who attended, including Mr Smithard.

All committee members from last year were re-elected. Thank you to the committee - and to all the year reps- for volunteering so much of your time!

ALSA COMMITTEE CONFIRMATIONS:

CHAIR- Emma Betteridge

TREASURER- Charlie Cash

SECRETARY- Amy Lander

FINANCES 2020/21

Last year we raised £22,281 - an amazing achievement for such an unusual year!

A message from ALSA continued...

How did we raise it?

Easy fundraising £475
Bags to school £276
Gin tasting £515
Halloween trail £362
Non uniform days £3,023
Christmas jumpers £489
Christmas cards £377
Christmas puddings £396
ALSA Gin £201
Christmas Trail £314
Cook book £939
Lapland sponsored star jump £1,790
Christmas raffle £1,456
Valentine's Spin to win £178
Tea towels £435
Quiz £350
Easter spin to win £241
Easter Trail £232
Spring Raffle £602
Mrs George 3 peaks £2,531
Teacher forfeits £1,554
Summer Raffle £1,237
Online auction £2,896
Other £1,305

How did we spend it?

School Panto 2020 - £299
Teaching Assistant 21/22 £10,294
Twinkl subscription 21/22 £1,025
Bark for playground £948
8 interactive screens for all the classrooms £10,408

FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR 21/22

The next priorities for the school (not necessarily in order) are:

- A new phonics scheme for KS1 (books and other resources) in line with current government guidelines. Expected cost £5,000 -£6,000
- A better selection of books in the school libraries
- Improving the outdoor area for reception and nursery
- Digital screen for the hall (similar to those in the classrooms but larger)

Other business

Other topics discussed included future fundraising events and possible dates and also how we can make more of the school's field on Normandy Road. There is a plan to put temporary toilets on the field in the summer term so that the school, ALSA and the wider community (via rentals) can make more use of it. Watch this space!

A message from ALSA continued...

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY *NB SOME OF THESE HAVE CHANGED*****

You may have received a message from your rep this week with some event dates. We have had to change some of these due to double bookings and others are awaiting confirmation from external providers. The most up-to-date list is below. Please note that for all non-uniform days, the theme is optional and it is perfectly fine to just come in normal clothes.

Halloween Disco: Thursday 21st October 6pm-8pm in school

Y6 cake sale and non-uniform (Halloween colours and non-scary characters...eg purple/black/green/orange, friendly witch or ghost etc) : 22nd October

Quiz night: 12th November

Y5 cake sale and Break the Rules day: 25th November

Wreath making - tbc probably 30th November

Christmas Cracker: Aboyne Lodge Christmas Fair: 4th December 2021

Year 4 cake sale and non-uniform (Valentines - wear red, pink hearts): 11 February 2022

Year 3 cake sale and non-uniform (Easter inspired – e.g. pastel colours, bunny or chicks on your shirt): 25th March 2022

Easter egg hunt: 1st April 2022 (afternoon, immediately after school breaks up)

Year 2 cake sale and Break the Rules day: 29th April 2022

Year 1 cake sale and non-uniform (rainbows / bright colours!): 27 May 2022

Reception cake sale and non-uniform (summer clothes): 24 June 2022

ALSA Ball: 1st July 2022

Summer Fair: 16th July 2022

Summer Disco: tbc - probably 21st July 2022

Thank you for reading and for your continued support!