



# ABOYNE LODGE

CREATIVE • CURIOUS • CARING

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 13th January '23



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been great to see the children back in school this week telling stories of their Christmas holiday and what they have been up to over the break.

To begin with, we have some exciting computing news - Miss Scanes managed to source and donate a set of VR headsets to the school just before she left. They are now in the process of being set up so that the children can use them as part of our curriculum. The aim is to give children the opportunity to explore new worlds and places from the past. I am sure that you will hear more from the children when they get the chance to use them.

Due to the incredible popularity of dodge ball, we have opened it up to children in the lower years so that more children get a chance to play. There are a few spaces left so sign up quick before they all go. Year 4—6 takes place on Thursdays and Year R

to 3 can play on a Wednesday. To sign up please go to Gateway or contact admin for more info.

Every year the school is used as a polling station (5th May) which takes place in the Lodge building, where Reception are based. Please be aware that there will be a bit of disruption during the day for the Reception children as we will be moving them into the main building for the day. We will give you further notice as we near the date.

I notice that snow has been forecast next week for Monday and possibly Tuesday (although it may only be a small flurry). The decision to remain open or close when it snows is largely dependent on safe travel and levels of staffing—we have some staff who travel quite a distance to work, and we also sit at the top of a hill which I suspect gets quite dangerous if it snows. Should it snow, I will try and make the call as early as possible via Class Dojo and email.

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

Owen (Y1 & Lyra (Y5)

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

Back next week

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thur 19th Jan: Girls Football Tournament at Samuel Ryder

Thur 19th Jan: Boys B Team vs How Wood (H)

Fri 20th Jan: 2x Former Aboyne pupils in to work shadow

Thur 26th Jan: Y5/Y6 Indoor Athletics Championships

Wed 1st Feb: KS1 Materials Setpoint Workshops

Thur 2nd Feb: Girls Football vs Abbey (H)

## The Special Book Corner

We have recently purchased a lot of new books for school that have a greater representation of different groups within our community. If your child would like to borrow one of them please ask them let Mr Smithard know - they are highly sort after so get in quick...



## MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

### Pre-Loved Uniform

ALSA have re-organised the pre-loved uniform sale rail. All items are £1 paid on Gateway. If there isn't anything in the right size, please email admin who will check the stock. **Please note we are unable to accept any further donations at this time.**

### Extra-Curricular Clubs

There are still spaces in most clubs, please contact the club directly.

### Absences

When reporting your child's absence to the office, please include as much information as possible. This will help us identify and monitor illnesses throughout the school community.

## 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.

