



# ABOYNE LODGE

CREATIVE • CURIOUS • CARING

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 8th September '23



Dear Parents/Carers,

Despite being the start of Autumn term and the new school year, it seems that summer has started. It has been a hot one but the children have coped remarkably well. It has been great to see them all back in school sharing stories of their holidays from places far and wide. From what I understand the weather is supposed to get a bit cooler next week.

We began the school year with an INSET last Friday with trauma attachments and safeguarding training for staff. The message I want to get out to all parents is to stay aware—if you do have a concern about a child, please come and speak to myself or Mrs Clinton in our capacity as the School Safeguarding Leads. I have added a bit more information below as a guide for you. I have also held an assembly with KS2 and attached the PowerPoint to the school website which you can access on our safeguarding page: <https://www.aboyne.herts.sch.uk/safeguarding>

We are in the process of improving the quality of our book stock and reflecting on our reading

scheme that follows on from Read Write Inc. I will update you further next week in more detail. We will be putting out a few more books out side next week, so please help yourself. There are some lovely books there - we just have multiple copies or they are a little bit old.

I have emailed parents about the RAAC situation at Aboyne, but to summarise: we are confident that we do not have the Aerated Concrete here, but Herts are coming back to check a number of schools, including ours, as a precaution.

Sadly, Susie Robinson made the decision to leave us over the Summer. Susie has worked for Aboyne for a number of years as one of our TAs and will be very much missed. We all wish her the very best for the future.

On a positive note, I am pleased to be welcoming a number of new members staff this year. Isis Stockley and Caroline Dowling are working in Orchards, Amy Golding and Fasika Tefere are working as SEN TAs and we have two new teachers, Jo Page and Fi Sherwood. Please make them welcome and say hello if you see them. We are advertising the Year 4 TA position and

hoping to have the post filled quickly. We are privileged here to have a brilliant group of highly qualified TAs at the school and the aim is to find someone with similar attributes.

I hope the sun stays out for all of you this weekend and that those of you going Pub in the Park have a great time.

Warmest wishes, Keith Smithard

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Tues 12th Sep - New to Y5 Meeting @ 9am

Weds 13th Sep - New to Y4 Meeting @ 9am

Thurs 14th Sep—New to Y1 meeting @ 9am

Tue 26th Sep—European Day of Languages

Thurs 5th & Tues 10th Oct—Parent Consultations

## Free School Meals

For many people, the last few years have been particularly tough. If you are struggling a bit financially, it may be that you qualify for free school meals. This also gives you access to free holiday activity camps and attracts some extra funding for the school, which can be used to support your child directly and wider school projects. Families who already qualify may also need to reapply. Go to the [Herts CC website](#) and follow the steps. If you do need help please let the office know and we'll help you through the process.

## SAFEGUARDING AT ABOYNE LODGE

At Aboyne Lodge, we take the safeguarding of our children extremely seriously. If you have a worry about a child please do not hesitate and get in touch. A small piece of information may add to a bigger picture or story that you are not aware of.

### When and what might I be concerned about?

At any time, you may be concerned about information which suggests a child is being neglected or experiencing physical, emotional or sexual harm. You may observe physical signs, notice changes in the child's behaviour or presentation, pick up signs of emotional distress or have a child disclose a harmful experience to you.

### Harm to a child can be caused by:

A parent/carer A family member/friend, another child, a stranger, or a member of staff or volunteer.

### What should I do if a child discloses that s/he is being harmed?

**Listen** - Listen carefully to what is being said to you, do not interrupt.

**Reassure** - Reassure the pupil that it is not their fault. Stress that it was the right thing to tell. Be calm, attentive and non-judgemental. Do not promise to keep what is said a secret. Ask non-leading questions (TED) to clarify if necessary:

**Tell me more...**

**Explain that to me...**

**Describe what happened...**

**Respond** – Make a written record (using the child's own words), sign and date it. As soon as possible, inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mr Smithard) or Deputy DSL (Mrs Clinton) without delay or the Chair of Governors where appropriate - Alex Farelly or Adam Brown).

### What should I do if the alleged abuser is a member of the school staff / volunteer?

If your concern is about a staff member or volunteer, you should report this to Mr Smithard the Head Teacher. If your concern is about the Head Teacher, you should report such allegations to the Chair of Governors. Contact details can be found at the bottom of this page.

The school has a Child Protection Policy and a copy is available on the school website's Statutory Information page here:

<https://www.aboyne.herts.sch.uk/statutory-info>

**In line with this, regardless of the source of harm, you MUST report your concern.**

**Head Teacher: & DSL** Keith Smithard **Deputy DSL:** Ruth Clinton

Contact your DSL/DDSL at/on: 01727 849700

**Chair of Governors:** Adam Brown & Alex Farley

You can contact the Governors through the school office on 01727 849700