



Aboyne Lodge Primary School

# Weekly Bulletin

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September '21

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

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

## A message from the Head

Dear Parents/Carers,

The sun has been shining on us this week and it is looking like we will have some favourable weather for the fair on Saturday. It would be great to see lots of you there for what promises to be a really lovely event. Many thanks to ALSA for their hard work putting the afternoon together and many thanks to all of you for contributing bottles for the tombola. The school will be open for tours with the Year 6 children, but in the interests of safety, please be mindful not to leave your children unattended around the school.

This week lots of you have been sending in ideas for the school motto – thank you! I will collate them and present a selection to the children on Monday for them to vote on next week. So far there is strong support for words that link to community and family, as well as curiosity and creativity to name a few.

I have noticed that lots of the children are bringing in Pokemon cards. While we want to encourage sharing and discussion, swapping can lead to arguments especially when swapped with younger children. All year groups now have a specific day of the week to bring them in to prevent this from happening.

A brand-new, interactive theatre show for families is coming to St Albans Library this October half term. A most curious disappearance has occurred at the library. Fortunately, Hertfordshire's finest Book Sleuths – Ally and Sam – are ready to take on the case! However, they need some extra help... By working with our Sleuths to crack codes, unravel riddles and pore over puzzles, can you help them solve this Very Puzzling Case? Designed for families of all kinds with children aged 7 to 11, this show is being created exclusively for Hertfordshire Libraries by local professional theatre company Teasel Productions, funded by Arts Council England. For more information and tickets please visit your local Library or <https://bit.ly/HertsLibBookSleuthTour>

I was lucky enough to go to Colney Heath school yesterday to see our cross country runners in action. They all made a fantastic effort and ran really well. Congratulations to all of the team who took part.

And finally, if you haven't managed to sign up for ClassDojo, please do. Here you will have an insight into your children's day at school. The eventual aim is to reduce the number of emails and communicate mostly through there. See you at the fair. Best regards, Mr Smithard

## Hot Chocolate Friday

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

Y1 - Jordan

Y2 - Harri

Y3 - Thomas

Y4 - Will

Y5 - Jonah

Y6 - Evan

## Upcoming events:

25.9.21 – ALSA Summer Fair 2pm – 5pm

7.10.21 – Travelling Bookfair Arrives in school

8.10.21 – Y3 Sharing Assembly

12.10.21 – Cross County at St Columbus

13.10.21 – Parents Evening (details to follow shortly)

20.10.21 – Parents Evening (details to follow shortly)

14.10.21 – Travelling Bookfair Departs

**The Witches  
By Roald Dahl  
Recommended by Minuki (Year 3)**

**Book of the Week**



“Witches live among us and they don't like children. A boy and his Grandmother find themselves in the middle of a witches' convention and they have to save England.  
I love this book a lot!”

**Things to Remember from the Office**

**Photos:** Individual Photos are now available to order online. Your child will be bring home their unique code today, please check book bags!!

**Parking Permits:** Available from the school office, please pay via Gateway. Payments received by 2pm will be sent home same day with the eldest sibling. Permits are £1.50 each.

**After School Clubs:** Please see attached grid for some updated information. Chess, tennis, French clubs all have spaces!

**Nursery** - We still have some 15 hour and 30 hour places available. Please contact the school office. We are very flexible on sessions; we want to make it work for you.

**Free School Meals** - Please check your eligibility here.  
[Apply for free school meals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

**How can I help at home? Working Memory**

Working memory refers to how we hold on to, and work with, the information stored in our short term memory. Children use working memory to learn and follow instructions, with some being able to hold more things in their short term memory than others. It was thought that this was fixed and that most people could hold three or four thoughts at once but scientists now have a better understanding of the brain's plasticity, and there are ways to boost your working memory and in turn support your children's learning.

1. Work on visualisation skills. Encourage children to create a picture in their mind of what they've just read or heard. For example, say you've asked your child to set the table for five people. Have your child imagine what the table should look like, and then draw it. As kids get better at visualising, they can describe the image instead of drawing it.
2. Try games that use visual memory. There are lots of matching games that can help children work on visual memory, like the classic game, Pairs. You could play a game where there are a number of items on a tray, which is then covered with the aim of the game to remember what was on the tray. License plates can be useful for memory too - try taking turns reciting the letters and numbers on a license plate and then saying them backwards.
3. Play cards. Simple card games like Uno, Go Fish, and Top Trumps can improve working memory in two ways - children have to keep the rules of the game in mind and they also have to remember what cards they have and which ones other people have played.
4. Encourage active reading. Jotting down notes and underlining or highlighting text can help children keep the information in mind long enough to answer questions about it. Talking out loud and asking questions about the reading material can also help with working memory. Active reading strategies like these can help with forming long-term memories, too.
5. Chunk information into smaller bites. People often remember phone numbers by remembering a few small groups of numbers then putting them together. For example 01707-642-170. This is because it is easier to remember small groups rather than one long string of numbers. Keep this in mind when you need to give your child multi-step directions or when supporting them with a homework task.

Source: Understood.org

### A message from ALSA

Hello everyone! We are all very excited about the Aboyne Lodge Autumn Fair tomorrow (Sat 25 Sept) from 2 to 5 pm at the school and hope you are too!

Thank you to all of you who have donated items and your valuable time – it is much appreciated and we hope you and your children have a great time at the fair.

#### ALSA MEETING

More details about the fair are below but first a reminder that the next ALSA meeting is the AGM and will be on Monday (27 Sept) in the school. Mr Smithard is hoping to attend. There will be a vote on committee positions, a financial update and discussion about what to raise funds for and which events to hold. All parents, carers and staff are welcome.

#### AUTUMN FAIR

##### TOKENS FOR STALLS

If you have pre-purchased your tokens via Gateway, you will be able to collect them at the entrance to the fair tomorrow. If you have not bought them yet, don't worry you can get them at the fair from the front desk, the BBQ or the bar (you can pay by cash or card machine at these locations).

Tokens will be accepted at all stalls.

As this is just a trial, we will still accept cash everywhere as normal however please do try to support the token system as we want to go cashless in the future.

Tokens are non-refundable and can only be used at tomorrow's fair so make sure you use them all up before you go home!

##### CAKES

If you are donating cakes then thank you so much! If you haven't already dropped them off today, please bring them to school tomorrow between 12-2pm.

##### SCHOOL & NURSERY TOURS

Some of our wonderful Year 6 students will be providing guided tours of the newly refurbished buildings. Tours are at 2.30, 3.15, 3.45 and 4.15pm and will start at the main school entrance.

##### GYMBOREE SESSIONS

Gymboree are generously donating their time for us and will so be hosting fun drop-in sessions in the nursery building for younger children (0-5 years) at 2.30, 3, 3.30 and 4pm.

##### ECO

A wise frog once said, "It's not easy being green," but ALSA are making changes to try to help our events become more eco-friendly.

You can help support us by bringing in your own travel cups for hot drinks tomorrow (please bring them in empty though!), reusing your cups from the bar and using the correct recycling and waste bins. Please encourage your children to do so too and also to pay a visit the Eco Committee's stall tomorrow.

##### **CAN'T COME TO THE FAIR OR FORGOT TO BRING IN DONATIONS BUT STILL WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?**

No problem, 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!

Thank you so much!