



Dear Parent/Carer

As you will all be aware the school had a visit from HMIe last week and I am very pleased to report that they enjoyed their week in our school and they made very positive comments about our young people and their learning experiences. We were very fortunate that they were able to attend our annual Celebration of Success event on Friday, 23 November. This gave them the opportunity to hear our fantastic musicians, our new Gaelic linguists and a short presentation about Eid – all pupils were a credit to our school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support during the inspection, as always your positive comments were very much appreciated, and HMIe were assured of our commitment to working with all of our partners. Early in January you will be sent a copy of a letter from them outlining their findings during the inspection.

Earlier this month we had an excellent turnout (58%) at our recent parents' evening. Another has been scheduled for February.

As you will see from the "dates for your diary" section December is going to be a particularly busy month. I will strive to keep you informed of all outings/trips as these have an impact on our young people's timetables and I am very aware of the necessity to ensure that everyone is fully prepared for any changes within the school day. I intend to forward a copy of the timetable changes for week beginning 10 December at the end of next week, as 24 pupils and 6 staff will be away in Italy that week.

Patricia McGowan

Dates for your Diary (December 2012)

Monday 3rd	Variety Club Christmas Party (Selection of pupils to attend)
Thursday 6th	School Band will perform at the Annual Financial Services Christmas Lunch
Friday 7th	School Christmas fair (organized by S3 Personal Development Award group)
Saturday 8th	Ski Trip departs for Italy
Thursday 13th	Trip to Pantomime, Pavillion Theatre (selected pupils only)
Friday 14th	Arthur Christmas cinema Trip, GFT (selected pupils only)
Friday 14th	S1 & S2 Christmas Party (afternoon only)
Sunday 16th	Ski Trip arrives back in Glasgow
Tuesday 18th	Christmas Service (Parents/Carers welcome - begins 10.15 am)
Friday 21st	School will finish at 2.30pm Re-opens Monday 7 th January

Diwali Doolally

Recently the second year pupils have been learning a lot about the Hindu festival of light, Diwali. So we thought it would only be fitting to put that knowledge into practice and have a traditional Diwali feast. First up the pupils had to answer a series of grueling questions on the subject in a "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" style quiz, amazingly every team got full marks! As their reward the pupils were treated to a beautiful array of traditional Indian foods including pakora, spiced honey cakes and even coconut juice. Most of it was devoured in seconds, the only thing left on the plates was the extra spicy Bombay mix which was, in the words of Myles Blockley, "too hot to handle!".



Maths Challenge

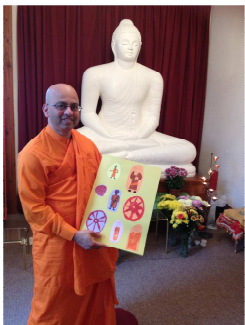
S2 took part in the Mathletics 4 Nations Challenge. This was an international challenge where pupils were working on maths skills. The pupils could do a mix of solving maths problems and gaining points or playing against someone else from around the world. Pupils had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It was fantastic seeing pupils having so much fun while they learned.



Buddhism comes to Abercorn

The third year pupils are currently learning about Buddhism and we recently invited a Buddhist monk to visit the school. Bhante grew up in Sri Lanka where he became a monk at the age of eight. He came to Glasgow ten years ago when he

started the Vihara on Maryhill Road, which he still runs today. Bhante introduced himself to the pupils by telling them a little about his amazing life story and then teaching the basics of mindfulness and meditation. We learned that he adopted 18 children after the tsunami in 2004, meditates for four hours every day and doesn't eat anything at all after midday, even at the weekend! As he was leaving Bhante commented on how impressed he was by how thoughtful and respectful everyone at Abercorn had been, some of the pupils even wished him well with a traditional Buddhist bow.



Parent's café

This month's Parents café will take place during the Christmas Fair on Friday 7th December. The classes involved have been busy planning for a Christmas Café and it was felt best to incorporate this into the Christmas Fair which was already planned to take place.



Taxi Helpline

There have been instances recently where parents/carers have had concerns about some of our taxis. Whether it is the taxi turning up late or issues within the taxi during the journey we would urge parents/carers to contact the Transport Co-ordination Centre to register their complaint. They can be reached on **0800 032 4444**.



Art & Design Dept News

Christmas Cards – Conor Barbour and Gavin Roberts (both S2) have had their artwork made into Christmas Cards that have already been on sale! Well done!!! These cards will be on sale at the School Christmas Fair on the 7th Dec. They are sold in packs of 4 and have 2 of each design per pack.

Charities Fair – Connor Paterson (S1) and Sean Harrigan (S5) represented the school, and practised their retail skills at a 'Coffee, Charities and Christmas Crafts' event on 5th Nov in Bearsden. They set up a great display of goods made by the Crafts group on our Wider Achievements Afternoon (WAA), and sold well! Pupils were invited by the Church group to attend the event, and host a stall, after Abercorn was supported at last year's event.

The Crafts Group (WAA) – have recently completed their "memories of summer" banner that they wish to donate to Yorkhill Hospital to "brighten peoples day". They are currently in the process of writing to the Director of Nursing and the General Manager at Yorkhill to arrange about delivery.



Ski Trip

Our 3rd residential Ski trip to Pila, Italy leaves on Saturday 8th December at 10am. Pupils and staff will travel to Italy by coach and spend 6 days on the slopes. Everyone is greatly looking forward to the experience. The trip is due to return on Sunday 16th at approx 9pm. Staff will endeavor to keep parents/carers updated on the return journey in the event of delays.

Bag Packing

Over 20 pupils packed bags in Asda Maryhill on Friday 16th November and did very well to raise £525 for school funds. We are grateful to Asda for allowing us the opportunity to do this.

Fuel Zone

The school dinner menu in the Fuel Zone reverted to the Winter Menu after the October holidays. Pupils are enjoying a varied range of healthy meals with good choices of both hot and cold food each day. If you feel your child has an issue with the meals available in the fuel zone please contact their year head to discuss this. In addition, can we take this opportunity to remind you that Abercorn is a committed Health Promoting School and as such we encourage pupils to bring healthy packed lunches. We would prefer pupils not to bring fizzy juice or sweets in their lunch boxes.

If you have any suggestions as to how we can improve the school or you wish to discuss a particular topic with Ms McGowan, Head Teacher, please complete and return this tear off slip to the school.

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Christmas in Abercorn

As always December is going to be a very busy month with lots of activities and exciting things happening. We will try to keep you informed of everything but here are the details of what we have planned so far.

Student Council Christmas Hamper

The Student Council will once again be raffling a Chocolate Christmas Hamper this year. Tickets will cost 25p for one or 5 tickets for £1. Pupils can buy tickets from Mrs Logue during Student Tutor time Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday throughout the month of December. The winner will be presented with the hamper at the Christmas Service on Tuesday 18th December.

Christmas Fair

The S3 Personal Development Group are busy organising our annual Christmas Fair. As always there will be a variety of stalls including toys, DVD's, books, handmade Christmas gifts, tombola home-baking etc. The Social Enterprise café will also be included in this event. Donations for any of the stalls are most welcome and can be sent in to the school anytime. All parents, carers and friends are invited to come along to the fair – you may be able to snap up some Christmas presents!

Christmas Service

Our annual Christmas Service will take place on Tuesday 18th December at 10am. All parents, carers and friends are invited to come along and celebrate with us.

Pantomime

We have been fortunate enough to have been donated tickets for the Pavilion Pantomime again this year. A group of pupils will see *'The Wizard of Never Woz'* on 13th December. We are, as always, very grateful to Mr Alan Rennie who donates these tickets to the school every year.

Arthur Christmas

We have another group of pupils going to see Arthur Christmas in the Glasgow Film Theatre on the 14th December.

School Band Gig

Our Abercorn School band will be performing at the Financial Services Association Christmas Lunch in Grand Central Hotel on the 6th December.

Christmas Service

Our annual Christmas Service will take place on Tuesday 18th December at 10.15 am. All parents, carers and friends are invited to come along and celebrate with us.

Christmas Holidays

The school will close for the Christmas holidays at 2.30pm on Friday 21st December. School re-opens on Monday 7th January. The staff of Abercorn would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

