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Our Ref: PG/MF

Date: 10 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Hope you are all well as the weather gets much colder, it took some time to defrost my car this morning. I hope if you are attending any Remembrance services over the weekend that the weather is not too harsh.

Nursery farewell

Today we say goodbye to Aberlour nurseries. It was delightful to receive a lovely card and sweets from Aberlour School nursery. I hope their move back to Aberlour Primary School goes well and we look forward to keeping in touch in the future.

In-Service days

Please be advised that Monday 13 November and Tuesday 14 November 2023 are in-service days therefore young people will not return to school until Wednesday 15 November.

School Christmas Parties

Both the junior and the senior parties will take place on Tuesday 12 December. A DJ is booked for both parties, to play a mix of current music and the ceilidh dances pupils will be learning in PE. A buffet will also be served at both parties.

The **junior party** will be in the afternoon, during periods 6 and 7. S1-S3 pupils will get an early lunch at 12.45pm to allow them time to get changed and ready for their party at 2pm. Classrooms will be allocated for pupils to get changed and to leave their bags/jackets during the party.

The **senior party** will take place on the evening of Tues 12 December from 7pm until 10pm. Tickets for the senior party cost £4 and will be on sale from Mon 27 November until Thursday 7 December, at lunchtimes in the auditorium. Young people must have a ticket to attend the senior party. To help reduce the costs for pupils, the school will not be providing a bus service to the party this year.

Families with young people receiving free school meals or experiencing financial difficulties at this time, should contact the school as the William Grant Foundation have provided funding to support pupils and ensure that everyone is able to join in with school events such as these.

Anti-Bullying Week and Parental Survey

Monday 13 November marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week 2023. Assemblies will be held with information shared from the anti-bullying organisation RespectMe 'Listen-Up' campaign throughout the week.

During this time we are reviewing our current Anti-Bullying policy which can be found here:

<http://speysidehighschool.net/anti-bullying-policy> and would welcome your opinions on the current policy and procedures taken to promote positive relationships at Speyside High School. We would request you complete the following survey with a closing date of Friday 24 November. Please note that young people are also being asked to be involved in this review through completing a pupil survey in PSE and also through an invitation to be part of an Anti-Bullying Policy focus group. Survey link: <https://forms.gle/UHfawrEFZwhB96Wc8>

Speyside/.



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Speyside High Parental Empowerment Group/Moray Wellbeing Hub

Keith and Speyside Parents and Carers of Children with a neurodiverse condition (children do not need to have received a formal diagnosis) are invited to meet to connect with other parents as part of the parent empowerment group, on Tuesday 14 November from 10.30am-11.30am. Meet up will be at Aberlour hotel, AB38 9QB. An opportunity to connect with others and share experiences through peer support. Booking preferred but not essential: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/moraywellbeinghub/1056231>

Cost of School Day

May I say a big thank you to those parents/carers who kindly agreed to help review our Cost of the School Day at Speyside High School. We really do appreciate you giving up your time to give us some feedback as to what is working well here and what we need to do to improve. If there is anyone else who would like to put forward their views and opinions there is an online consultation form. The link to use is below.

<https://forms.office.com/e/G73S4fy5Nu?origin=lprLink>

If anyone would like a paper copy of this to complete, please let me know – helen.duffy@moray-edunet.gov.uk. The deadline for responses is Tuesday 21 November.

Children In Need Day

Next Friday (17 November) is Children In Need day. We are celebrating this in a number of ways:

- Non-uniform day (yellow / spotty / Pudsey themed if possible!). Donations are optional, but we will be collecting for the Children In Need appeal.
- Bake Sale – this is being organised by the Student Leadership team, and will be in the **Games Hall** at morning break. All proceeds are going to Children In Need.
- Inter-house spin bike challenge. Staff and senior students will be taking on an indoor cycling challenge to see which house can cycle the furthest distance in 3 hours!
- Official Children In Need wristbands will be for sale from Wednesday onwards. Senior students will be outside the Auditorium and in the canteen area. These can be purchased for £1.

Parent Council

There will be a Speyside High School Parent Council AGM on Monday 20 November 2023 at 7pm. The Council are desperate for new members due to recent changes in the group. At present if no-one joins the council they will no longer be able to operate. This would be unfortunate as we have a reasonable sized school roll. There is no obligation to undertake a role if you attend a meeting. All support is appreciated. Please see link and attached QR code for more information. (Parent Council)

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQQtawUZKe2gvE4bPkdLhjZ648CdDLtUNkdWVFFUSkhDSjhFNTRGMEZBNEU2SE9NTC4u>

Vaping/.



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Vaping

Please be aware that vaping in or on school property is not allowed. Vaping is treated in the same way as smoking, both of which are not healthy choices and do not align with our motto of being 'Happy, Healthy and High Achieving'. I thank you in advance for your support managing this situation in school as we continue to work hard to ensure vaping doesn't happen in the toilets at break and lunchtime. As you may be aware we have had two false fire alarms this week, one of which was caused due to vaping in one of the toilets. I'm sure you can understand the disruption and distress this can cause.

Fire Alarm

Related to the above we have had two false fire alarms this week at lunchtimes. This is highly concerning for many reasons. I thank you for discussing with your young person the serious nature of these instances and trust that this will not happen again.

Yours faithfully

Mrs P Goodbrand
Head Teacher



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