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Dear Parent,

It has been a real mix of weather this week. We have had a couple of glorious days in Ellesmere, with pupils getting out into the fresh air and sunshine. A couple of the days have been extremely grey and wet. With this in mind, it was noted that a good number of children relied upon just the tracksuit top at playtime. The material is lovely and thick for warmth but it also soaks in the rain. It is therefore important that all children have a rainproof jacket to slip on when the weather is poor. Please note that tracksuit bottoms are required for academic lesson time, not shorts.

It is timely to say thank you to parents for their support and their continued action regarding pupil's 'sniffs and snuffles'. Obviously, if parents are at all concerned regarding symptoms, after checking against the NHS guidelines, they should take the appropriate actions recommended by the NHS. However, keeping pupils at home for a period of time when the symptoms are simply a seasonal cold response, is really helping to keep the community at School stay as healthy as possible. Sister is available on the telephone should you need advice.

Still on a medical note, Sister asked me to mention that the Shropshire Immunisation Team are scheduled to undertake nasal flu vaccines for Years 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at the College. Consent forms will be sent out in the first week after half term.

Period Grades are published this week. These grades are simple effort grade 'snapshots' regarding the first few weeks of this new term. Pupils then will have dialogue during tutor time and set sensible targets for improvement. The first set of full Period Grades, which include an effort and attainment grade, will be published in a few weeks' time.

Pupils are extremely busy in School at present. There is a good academic atmosphere and the activity sessions are well-attended. It is good to see the chess club growing in popularity and pupils are enjoying many opportunities in games sessions too. Lunchtime cricket nets have been very well attended. We like pupils to be as active as possible during a typical day.

The 'Kindness Initiative' is well under way this term. Pupils are encouraged to quietly nominate pupils who have particularly been kind to them. At the end of the year we will look at all nominations and there are small prizes for those children who have been particularly kind to others. The Headmaster places great value on kindness throughout the whole School. This initiative is the starting point when fostering that ethos throughout the Ellesmere community.

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Mrs Morgan has launched an Autumn Competition for the pupils this week. She has challenged the children to encapsulate the flavour of Autumn in picture form, photographs, prose or any medium that they choose. There are prizes for the best entries. All entries must be given/sent to Mrs Leonard, the Lower School Secretary, before the first week back after half term. This will help reinforce the creative aspects of Higher Performance Learning and move towards independence of effort. It is fun for the teachers too, I have seen a few early entries from them. They will have to have their own category for judgement!

Have a good weekend when it arrives.

Yours sincerely,