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18th September 2020

Dear Parent,

Week two has come around so quickly. Pupils are really settling well into routines and Ellesmere is once again a hive of activity, albeit a little adapted.

A few pupils have had seasonal sniffles, etc. and sensibly have stayed at home until well again. This is absolutely normal for this time of year. Should you have any concerns please call Sister who will advise of the way forward, should the need arise. It is also important to call sister to confirm that your child is fit to return. We need to keep the School community as healthy as possible.

Sister can be contacted via email sisters@ellesmere.com or 01691 626529

We are enforcing handwashing as much as possible and sensible routines are in place. Parental contact is via telephone/email at present. Should a face to face meeting be required, at present that should be via Teams and this will be managed for you by the teacher concerned.

Still on a hygiene theme, it is necessary for children to pop a set of their own headphones into their school bag please. These only need to be an inexpensive set and not wireless. This will allow silent computer work when it arises and avoids cross contamination.

Please note that if you need to collect your child from Lower School during the School day please park on the tennis centre car park and telephone Mrs Leonard on 01691 626511. Mrs Leonard will then collect your child and bring them out to you. You may meet them on the School playground. Please avoid coming into Lower School. If you do need to come into Lower School for an arranged appointment, please remember to wear a face mask.

It has been pretty warm this week and we are not complaining! It has been wonderful to teach as many sessions outside as is possible. Games sessions have been lovely. Pupils can get a little hot though, so may wear shorts at playtime and lunchtime. However, they do need tracksuit bottoms once inside for lessons, Chapel and registrations etc.

The theme of assembly this week was that every person has value and is unique. This fits with our thoughts that all learners progress at different rates and hard work, perseverance and determination are key to all progress. I have seen a great deal of those characteristics so far this term. Learning also has been fun!

It was also good to congratulate Kyara Heward Year 8 and Freddie Heasmer-Jones Year 8, on their appointment as Music Captains for Lower School this year.

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We encourage pupils to read as much as possible. With this in mind, each pupil should carry a 'reading for pleasure' book in their bag. This would be different to the set texts used in English lessons. There are moments in the school day where quiet reading is directed.

It appears that the Lower School cricketers have been very busy over the summer period. I would like to say well done to Ewan Nicholson Year 7 and Ralph Cornwell Year 6, who were selected to represent Shropshire in the U11s County Squad. Similarly, Adam & Thomas Jacques and Hugh Cornwell Year 8 were selected for Shropshire U12s County Squad. Very well done boys!

It is a good time to introduce to new parents the Parents' Society of Ellesmere College. Ellesmere College Parents' Society (ECPS) meet regularly to organise various events to enhance the experience for parents and children at the College. I believe it is also a very sociable way of meeting other parents and establishing friendship links that last through the school years. I am sure that Mrs Kelly would welcome any new parent to join their group. You can contact ECPS on the email contactecps@gmail.com to find out more.

Have a good weekend when it arrives.

Shoran Owen

Yours sincerely

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