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10th September 2021

Dear Parent,

It has been a good week, even though a lovely hot one! It has been incredibly busy and pupils appear to be taking things in their stride. No doubt some will be quite tired, so a few early nights to bed will help things along.

A few children have forgotten to bring their personal water bottles this week. Please can one be popped in their school bag, please could the children name them too. Still on a bag theme, it is a College rule that children have a sensible bag to carry their equipment during the day. A small day sack for books/equipment helps pupils to be organised, especially in Years 7 and 8 where they travel more in the curriculum.

Pupils are looking particularly smart at the moment. Due to the hot weather we have allowed summer rules regarding dress. Dr Chatterjee will default to winter rules soon. This means that all pupils will need to wear their jumper and travel in full tracksuits or full uniform when going home. It is worthy of note that the boys should wear black or grey socks with uniform and not white sport socks or socks in other colours.

We continually encourage personal reading. Please could you ensure that pupils have a reading book in their school bag for quiet moments, travel and down-time. We also encourage children to read aloud at every possible opportunity too. Thank you with your support with this from home. It is important that tutors have details for each child regarding homeward travel arrangements. Please also contact Mrs Leonard, the Lower School Secretary, or the personal tutor should an arrangement change. Tutors will be contacting all parents within the first few weeks to inform of early progress and to touch base on any important details.

Please could parents provide a padlock and key to secure their child's personal locker. The clasp on the padlock should be of a decent length and fairly fine to go through the locker hub. Micro padlocks, like the ones on a suitcase, are too small.

Mrs Morgan, Assistant Head Pastoral, organises expeditions and activities for the Lower School children. Details are published in advance of the visits. As previously mentioned, Year 7 pupils traditionally go on a residential stay to help with forming new friendship groups etc. This year Year 7 will go to PGL Baschurch and a separate Parent Mail has been sent to Year 7 families with a reply slip to complete and return.

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www.ellesmere.com

A Woodard School

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Mrs Paul, Teacher of Music, asked me to let parents know that Lower School offers a wide range of instrumental lessons (drum kit, woodwind instruments, such as flute and saxophone, brass instruments, including trumpet and French horn, string instruments, such as violin, cello and guitar, piano and voice.) She put forward the notion there have been many studies showing that musical training can enhance verbal memory, spatial reasoning and literacy skills. Learning an instrument can also provide a huge sense of achievement and enjoyment. If your child would like to try learning to play a musical instrument or take singing lessons, please email: rebecca.paul@ellesmere.com and she will arrange a taster lesson with the appropriate visiting music teacher.

Sport fixtures are starting and squad sessions began on Monday therefore, it is worth going through the College white calendar carefully regarding commitments. Please contact Mr Williams, Director of Sport, with any questions. Please ensure that all games kit is named too as you can imagine the mix-ups that can take place with excited children in busy changing areas. Please also feel warmly welcome to come and support the College. There are refreshments after the home matches and this is a nice way to meet other parents and staff.

From a child protection legislation perspective could parents refrain from coming into the Lower School building without an appointment please, even though it's lovely to see you! Mrs Leonard is available on the direct line 01691 626511. We regularly have pupils who need to meet parents early. Please could you drop an e-mail if possible to your child's personal tutor and copy Mrs Leonard in to explain the time that the pick-up is required. Please call Mrs Leonard when you arrive and she will bring your child out to you. It is most likely that this will be to the Tennis Barn car park as during the School day the gates are locked to Lower School. Many thanks for your support with this.

On a similar note, I hope that families are getting into routines now, to work out general travel times to School from home. It's always a little difficult, understandably in the first few weeks of establishing routines. In the mornings, Lower School drop off should be after 8.15 please as until then, officially we don't have staff in school to supervise the day children. Also, please may we still have a drive in and pick up system with KS2 parents at the end of the day, as parking for lengthy periods blocks the turning area for coaches and is dangerous for our children too. We try to have the children ready and waiting from 5.15pm.

Please feel comfortable contacting Mrs Leonard, the Lower School Secretary, should you have any questions in these early weeks of term.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

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