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Dear Parent,

A belated Happy New Year to all of our families. We hope that you managed some downtime and relaxation. The children appear to have got into the routines of College quickly this week. There have been examples of excellent work completed over the holiday.

The Lent term is a busy term. The Upper School groups are in the throes of preparation for mock examinations in readiness for the public examinations, so there is a definite scholarly feel as one moves around the College. Lower School assessment Week starts on Monday 30th January.

As you would expect with January, the weather has been wild. Wind and rain have been very much the theme for the weather this week. A number of children have come to College without an outdoor coat. They will need these as they walk between the College buildings.

Whilst thinking about kit and clothing. Please can you ensure that each item is clearly named. We had a raft of lost property towards the end of last term and we would like to get the items back to their respective owners.

I am sure that pupils may have had 'tech' items as Christmas gifts. As we all know, these pieces of equipment are becoming more sophisticated. We really do work hard in College to try to help you to keep pupils safe online. We do not allow mobile phone use in School during our working day and all of our tablets are protected regarding connectivity. Please also note that the wrist watches that connect to the internet/messages are not allowed in the College to ensure that this rule is kept. Mrs Pritt-Roberts, Deputy Head Academic to the School, will be sending all parents more information over the coming weeks. Please check your child's social interaction on these devices on a weekly basis. Also, please regularly check any browsing history too. Check that your home security and filters are up-to-date and secure. It's amazing how little eyes can see passwords being typed from a distance. Young children are naturally curious and will want to access information that essentially may be too old for them. Indeed, I cannot prescribe to parents how to manage their home life however, try not to be pushed into allowing children to have non-age appropriate app use with the old chestnut of 'everyone else is using it'. What's App is over 16 years. Check the age guidance carefully. These interactions can essentially turn unkind at times, it's a mess to sift through and it causes so much upset for all concerned. We have a very good network /IT department, please feel you can contact them for any advice moving forward.

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The Sister team have been rolling out the Nasal Flu vaccine to certain age group pupils this week. Please contact Sister Eiry should you have any medical questions or information as we move through the term.

If your child has a cold, please can you keep them at home so that we keep infection across the community to as low a level as possible.

The main sports this term are Rugby for KS2 boys, Football for KS3 boys with Netball for the girls. In addition, we have lunchtime clubs for pupils e.g. football, hockey, tennis. The White College Calendar and Parent Portal/SOCS has information regarding the forthcoming fixture programme. Please note that should any difficulty arise regarding attendance to a fixture that Coaches will need advance notice to ensure that College teams can still be sent out with a full complement of players.

It is also worth saying a well done to the College swimmers. They have trained hard throughout the whole of the festive period. We will be watching with interest their performances in the forthcoming competitions.

Have a good weekend once we get there!

Yours sincerely,