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Dear Parent,

It has been cold and damp for most of this week and I have reminded a few children to come to School with a coat. It is also essential that pupils have a full tracksuit for Games, pupils may wear base layers too! We like to keep outdoor activities as normal as possible at Ellesmere through the winter. These extra steps allow us to keep the pupils as comfortable as possible over the next few weeks until the spring sunshine arrives.

Please could all School kit be named too? This helps Mrs Arrowsmith and Mrs Lowe (Lower School secretaries) return lost items and keep their lost property bin from overflowing!

We have been encouraging healthy eating again in Lower School. Fruit is available for a child to eat at break and playtime should they feel hungry. We prefer that children do not bring sugary snacks into School. Pupils have tuck shop once a week as a treat and spending is restricted to sensible amounts.

Please also note that pupils should not be involved in 'selling on' food, drink nor any other personal items in College. This includes all academic sections of the College. Please be on the alert for the craze regarding 'Prime Energy/Hydration Drink' too. The hype is reaching youngsters in the country to frenzy buy and sell on for profit, as the distributors are targeting impressionable young people. This has been a problem for other Schools. This is strictly not allowed here. Pupils only need to bring £1 tuck money on their tuck day. Please be wary should your child ask to bring extra money into College.

Sister has asked me to mention Year 8 HPV vaccine reply slips. The vaccine will be administered on Friday 3rd February and all reply slips, including nil requests, need to be in School by 30th January please.

An InTouch letter has gone out to families informing of details regarding the forthcoming parents' meetings for Year 6. Please follow the instructions on the email to book appointment times.

Pupils have enjoyed playing in a wide range of competitive sports over the first few weeks of term. It is also good to see the choir growing in size too! We have appreciated hearing the musicians and singers performing during the Chapel services. We enjoyed a Lower School Eucharist Service on Wednesday too. On a musical note, the Lower School Music Tea is on Monday at 4.30pm in the Lower School Hall. Parents and family are welcome and refreshments will be provided. Performances will include pupils from KS2 and KS3.

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The cricket coaches have been encouraging attendance at lunchtime cricket nets. Pupils may attend the winter net programme even if they have never played cricket before. Mr Jones advocates that 'winter net' play certainly helps to get the summer cricket season off to a flying start. It is good to be thinking of the better weather ahead!

Pupils have been doing cross country running in PE lessons recently. The focus is on developing an aerobic base of fitness and improvement of personal performances.

It is assessment week next week. Pupils will be given revision areas to look over, ready for these small snapshot assessments. The results inform teachers for tracking progress. They also help to gently develop academic rigour and resilience.

The School Entrance Exam morning is on Saturday 4th February. Please contact Admissions should you require any further information for anyone considering a place for a child at the College.

Please note that it is important that we know when a child is staying after 5.30pm for an activity. Please check that your child has notified their tutor, who will ensure the after-school list is updated.

Have a good weekend when it arrives. There are no games fixtures due to Exeat weekend arrangements however, we wish the swimmers success in the City of Sunderland New Year Meet.

Yours sincerely,