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Dear Parent,

It is good to be writing the first newsletter from Lower School for this Michaelmas Term. We have had an extremely busy week, as you will have expected. It was lovely to meet all of the new families at New Pupils' Tea on Sunday and as I look out of my study window at break time, it appears the new children have settled extremely well already!

We have had a clear focus of back to routine and work. The children have responded well and have been hardworking in classes already. I saw the first house point awarded within half an hour of starting School on Monday. The house competition has already begun!

Pupils have been very sensible with their adaptation to routines and movement around School. May I take this opportunity to thank our Lower School parents for their common-sense approach and continued support from home.

Pupils are required to bring a water bottle into School to help reduce the use of glassware in the dining hall and to obviously keep the children hydrated throughout the day. A personal bottle of 'hand san' in their school bag also helps movement around school during the day.

Dr Chatterjee asked me to remind parents that a breakfast club is available should a family wish to drop off their child earlier than 8.15am. The Lower School Secretary is in the building from 8.15am for daily entry to the Lower School building. Please ring the Lower School Secretary for more details.

Activities and clubs will gradually be introduced as the term picks up impetus. Chess club will take place next week with Mr Dilks and Mr Atherton, two very competitive Common Room chess players. The challenge still stands for them to be beaten by a pupil. It was close last year!

Cricket nets will start at lunchtime next week too. This is open to all children even if a pupil has never played before. We have enough equipment in School, therefore pupils should keep their kit to a minimum. The cricket coaches will follow COVID guidelines for safety.

Shooting will start soon and more details will follow shortly. This is good to hear as usually a large proportion of our Lower School children shoot and we have some excellent nationally ranked shooters in School.

The swimmers have continued with their dedication and training and it will be good to hear of their progress over the forthcoming weeks.

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It is worth a reminder that mobile telephones are not allowed during the School working day. Pupils are asked to lock their devices in their personal locker during morning registration. Mrs Leonard is always available to make or take important telephone messages should the need arise. It is also worth noting that many social media apps are for children over 13 years. We have been notified that an alarming TikTok clip is being circulated at the moment. Dr Chatterjee deems all Lower School pupils to be too young for such apps, even if they reach 13 years before they move to Year 9. School cannot take responsibility for misuse of social media, outside of the School day.

Should you have any medical information or query regarding your child and their health and welfare, please do not hesitate to call and chat to Sister. She can be reached via Reception using the School main number 01691 622321.

Personal tutors are the first point of contact for Parents and an email to the tutor or message left with Mrs Leonard will ensure that they get back to you as soon as they possibly can.

Similarly, should you have any general queries please call or email Mrs Leonard on 01691 626511 or [lowerschoolsecretary@ellesmere.com](mailto:lowerschoolsecretary@ellesmere.com).

The weather is very kind at the moment, I hope we are blessed for a few more weeks to come.

Have a good week.

Yours sincerely,