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Dear Parent,

It's been lovely to enjoy the nice weather of late, but it has undoubtedly taken a downturn towards the end of this week. With this in mind, it is prudent to ask that pupils have a coat/waterproof jacket to cover the tracksuit. This will allow us to get the children outside to play at breaktimes whenever possible. As you will appreciate, in these current times, its far healthier for all to be in the fresh air. Please can you also check that all clothing items are named, either by a label or written onto a label in each garment. We are not allowed to hold large amounts of lost property in Lower School. Mrs Hinks, the School Housekeeper, can store lost property more safely and pupils will be asked to check there, should they lose an item.

We had the pleasure to announce Head Boy and Head Girl of Lower School in Assembly this week. Christopher Astbury and Bella Spencer-Blow Year 8, collected their badges from Mr Dilks on 'Teams' and I am sure they will do a sterling job this year. We also appointed Finlay Baggaley to Chapel Prefect and Oscar Acher-Rogers and Isabella Moore are the Captains of Drama.

With 'Teams' in mind it is worth noting that we are encouraging pupils throughout the whole School, to bring in and use iPads or laptops if they have them. We are continuing with skills developed over the lockdown period and see such items as educational equipment. Obviously, it is fine not to have such items in School; however, if the family has the relevant insurance cover, please consider the option. The world of work uses such devices more and more and its good for pupils to develop their skills.

The John Muir sessions have been hugely popular this term already. On Wednesday afternoon, Year 7 and 8 pupils take part in a carousel of activities to stretch and challenge them in a variety of co-curricular skills and tasks. Some of these sessions include bikability, Nature Studies, Drama Workshop, Young Botanist, Orienteering and Mapwork, Conservation and Biodiversity Studies, Climate Crisis and Action to name a few.

The Parents' Society kindly donated a sum of money for Lower School to use, to extend the play experiences in the playground. We have added a new piece of climbing equipment to our wonderful playground at the back of the School. It has been used every playtime by KS2 children already. Our gratitude is sent to the Parents' Society for their continued support of the Lower School children.

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We are continuing our quest for children to eat healthily in school. Each form only has Tuck Shop as a treat, once per week and we ask that spending money is limited to £1. We do not encourage the reliance on sweets at break time and supply a variety of fresh fruit for the children to snack on. We also encourage pupils to be correctly hydrated through the day. With this in mind, each child should bring a suitable water bottle to school please.

Lunchtime cricket nets have been very popular with all pupils over the first three weeks of term. Chess Club is very well attended too with many new children learning the game. Mr Dilks and Mr Atherton are still as competitive as ever and so far are unbeaten!

With the thought that the weather will not be as dry as of late, it would be wise for pupils to have a spare set of socks and training shoes in their locker for playtime over the forthcoming weeks.

It has been pleasing to see a good number of pupils sign up to enjoy the Saturday sport activity sessions. It is not too late to join. Please contact Mrs Leonard on lowerschoolsecretary@ellesmere.com and a form can be sent to you to return.

Have a very good weekend once it arrives.

Yours sincerely