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Dear Parent,

All too soon we have come to the last newsletter for this first half of the Michaelmas term. The weeks have simply flown past!

May I begin this week's newsletter with a heartfelt thankyou to parents and pupils for their support with the non-uniform charity event last Friday. All donations will go to the charity supporting the mental health of children. Sister Eiry will let me know over the next few days how much was raised and I will then report that to you. It was lovely to see that one of our recent Sixth Form pupils was nominated and won the prestigious "Rising Star" award at the Independent Schools of the Year 2022 ceremony in central London. The awards were hosted by Dr Helen Wright, Chair of the independent panel of judges who selected the winners from more than 700 nominations. Elin Jones will be known by many of our Lower School pupils. Her award was in recognition for the work she had done with mental health charities in School and the locality.

Year 8 pupils had a guest speaker in Geography this week. They were given insight to the experiences of the journey made by a child refugee. Our thanks are given to Mrs Waddams for organising this enrichment activity.

On a musical note, we are starting our Musical Tea events soon. It will also be a chance to invite parents again post COVID restrictions. Mr Coupe has identified Monday 7th November. The musical tea will take place in the Lower School Hall and it provides an opportunity for pupils to perform to small, supportive gatherings in their quest for improvement. Pupils recently enjoyed a musical group bowling trip with Mr Coupe. They shared that they really enjoyed it.

Communion Club is well attended. The children from both KS2 and KS3 regularly enjoy meeting. Chess Club is gaining in popularity and competitiveness. The Shooting Range and Tennis Centre courts are always busily booked and the lunchtime sport areas are full and enjoyed by many pupils. Craft Club is well underway and Mrs Rogers has set a half term Photography Competition for all ages entitled 'Vibrant'. Lower School is a very busy place to be at the moment.

There have been a number of solid sport performances throughout the whole of this first half term. Pupils across the full range of sports should be proud of what they have achieved both in and out of College. A large number of pupils have represented the College to their credit. I have received nice comments regarding the general attitude and sporting behaviours of the children. This is always a pleasure to hear. Well done to all!

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We have been enjoying KS2 and KS3 Chapel services again this term. It has been good to see a number of pupils stepping up to read during the service. We will continue to encourage pupils to step slightly out of comfort zones and develop their reading performance skills.

Expeditions begin next week. Mrs Morgan has added details below for each age group with respect to venue and clothing requirements, etc. Year 7 have a slightly different structure, as they will travel to their residential stay on Wednesday. They have an educational experience day in School on Tuesday. Please contact the Lower School Secretary should you have further queries.

The College Medical Sister has asked me to remind parents to do regular checks of their child's hair for head lice. Obviously, in such a busy and close community, such unwanted visitors can arrive from time to time. Half term is a good time for a thorough check.

We have many new parents working their way through the routines of the busy life at Ellesmere. It is worth a reminder to families that Lower School officially opens at 8.15am each morning when the Lower School Secretary arrives. Pupils cannot be unattended in the Lower School building or grounds before that time. In the past, Dr Chatterjee has arranged a Morning Breakfast Supervision Club should a family experience difficulties. This does not run at the moment, should families contact him to express a need, he may consider the possibility of reinstating it again.

Many of our new pupils are ready for the rest that half term will bring. Many children have worked extremely well this term and have found the school day a long one here at Ellesmere. It is pleasing to see that many take it in their stride. I am sure that the half term rest will allow them to recharge batteries ready for the second half of this Michaelmas term, which is always very busy.

Have a good half term once it arrives.

Yours sincerely,



Lower School will be going on expeditions from Tuesday 18th October. This will hopefully be an enjoyable experience for all. Please see the grid below for information about where your child will be visiting and what sort of clothing to wear. Pocket money is allowed but must remain the responsibility of the child throughout the trip. A small bag that can be carried on their back, like a school bag, is needed as we will be providing lunch that they will have to carry. A water bottle will be required and pupils may bring extra snacks if they wish. It might also be a good idea for them to have their own small hand-san so they can use it as they need to. If you have any queries, please contact the Lower School secretaries.

	Tuesday 18 th October	Wednesday 19 th October	Thursday 20 th October	Friday 21 st October
Ash	Xplore Science – Techniquet Cheshire Ice cream Farm Own clothes/sensible footwear/waterproofs	Lion Salt Works Own clothes/sensible footwear/waterproof coat	Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre Stokesay Castle Own, outdoor warm clothing/waterproof coat/trainers	Normal School day School uniform
Oak	Enginuity at Ironbridge Own clothes/sensible footwear/waterproof coat	Chirk Castle Own, outdoor warm clothing/waterproof coat/trainers/boots	Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre Stokesay Castle Own, outdoor warm clothing/waterproof coat/trainers	Normal School day School uniform
Elm	Erddig Own, warm clothes/weatherproof/trainers	Delamere Forest Own, outdoor warm clothing/waterproof coat/trainers and wellingtons or walking boots to change into.	Jackfield Tile Museum Own, old clothes, waterproof coat and trainers	Normal School day School uniform
Y6	Blue Planet Aquarium Own clothes/sensible footwear/waterproof coat	Blists Hill Own, outdoor warm clothing/waterproof coat/trainers/boots	Conwy RSPB Own, outdoor warm clothing/waterproof coat/trainers and wellingtons or walking boots to change into.	Normal School day School uniform
Y7	In School Activities School sports kit	PGL Own clothes as per packing list	PGL	PGL Returns in the afternoon
Y8	Black Country Museum Own clothes/waterproof coat/sensible footwear	Thinktank Museum Birmingham Own clothes/sensible footwear/waterproof coat	Bush Craft Day Own, warm clothes/waterproof coat/sensible footwear/trainers	Normal School day School uniform

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What to bring

Please ensure that all items are named.

CLOTHING

Clothes are likely to suffer wear and tear and also get dirty and/or wet therefore you should bring several changes of old clothes for doing activities.

- Tops & jackets**
 - T-shirts
 - Long sleeved shirt/T-shirts
 - Waterproof jacket
 - Fleeces/jumpers



Your arms will need to be covered to do some activities.

- Trousers or leggings**

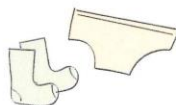
but not jeans as they get heavy and cold when wet



- Underwear & socks**

Your socks will need to cover your ankles to do some activities.

- 1 or 2 sets of **clothes for the evening**



- Suitable **nightwear**

TRAVELLING IN THE...

...SUMMER?

- Shorts
- Baseball cap/sun hat
- Sunscreen

...WINTER?

- Warm coat
- Hat and gloves

Lost property

We recommend you write a list of what you pack to check before you come home. If you do leave anything behind, please contact your party leader who will contact PGL. Postage will be charged for returning lost items.

Study courses and sports weekends

Groups taking part in study courses and sports weekends e.g. netball/football, should bring appropriate clothing/footwear for these activities.

FOOTWEAR

- 2 pairs of trainers**
 - 1 for activities
 - 1 old pair for watersports
- 1 pair of dry shoes** for evening activities



OTHER ITEMS

- 2 towels**
 - 1 for showering
 - 1 old one for activities

- Reusable **drinks bottle**



- Small **rucksack/bag**

- Labelled **bin bag** for wet and dirty clothing



- Sleeping bag or duvet** and pillow (unless otherwise advised)

- Washbag** including soap, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste (please do not bring Aerosols)

PLEASE DO NOT BRING

- Electrical devices
- Computer games
- Jewellery/valuables
- Aerosols

If you bring your **mobile phone**, please note, it is not covered by our insurance.



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