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6th November 2020

Dear Parent,

It was good to see the children return after the half term break looking refreshed and happy. They also look smart in their school uniform. It's perhaps timely to note that long hair still requires tying back using bands in the school colours. Pupils should also be wearing their school jumper.

As you will imagine, it is necessary for us to limit the amount of equipment that makes a daily journey back and forth from home to school. Where possible, equipment should stay in school for the week. Unless it gets very wet or dirty, sports kit can be stored for the week in the bag room. Please could all items of clothing or kit be named. KS2 have been provided with an A4 plastic book carrier for daily use and pencil cases should be kept in School.

It was impressive to see that the children have also been busy and responded well to the challenge set by Mrs Morgan. Pupils were to express their thoughts and images of Autumn in whatever creative form they would like to choose. So far, we have entries of photographs, models and poems. The final date for entry is this week. I am sure Mrs Morgan has a special prize up her sleeve.

We are trying to keep the pupils in the fresh air as much as possible over the next few weeks. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us. We have organised a number of extra 'bubble separated' activities to keep them active at lunch break too. Chess club continues to be very popular and Mr Dilks and Mr Atherton have still to be beaten by a pupil. It is getting closer however, I believe. Cricket nets have also been well attended and I am hopeful that all of this extra drilling of skills will pay dividend when the cricket season arrives. I know those long, warm, summer days, (hopefully COVID free by then), appear a long way off at the moment.

It is lovely to see the KS3 children, Years 7 and 8, enjoying developing their skills for the John Muir Award on Wednesday afternoons. They are involved in a number of outdoor based skills too from campcraft to cooking and navigation. It will be a pleasure to present the completed award to Year 8 pupils from last year, in the Lower School Teams assembly on Monday. The award will lead on to the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award in Year 9. It was also good to see a large number of former Lower School pupils, now 6th form age, complete their Gold Award too. Their prizegiving ceremony is usually at either Buckingham Palace or St James' Palace and is truly a special day for families. This is something for our current Lower School pupils to aspire to!

The House Competition is as competitive as ever. Brownlow House has been faring very well of late and many House Points have been achieved by pupils. Phillips House just sneaked ahead last week. It is all very close.

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A Woodard School

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It is worth remembering that mobile phones are not allowed in Lower School during the working school day. Obviously, they can be brought to school to help travel purposes, but kept locked away in personal locker spaces. Dr Chatterjee outlined in a recent assembly, that many forms of social media app are guided to have a sign in agreement for persons over 16 years. WhatsApp and Facebook can be amongst these to protect against immature social interaction. This gives parents help in decisions regarding their children for the home situation.

On a topical issue, please feel reassured that Dr Chatterjee will contact families should any concerns arise for 'bubbles' in school with respect to COVID infections. Similarly, to help us, we ask if parents can keep any child at home who feels remotely unwell with anything. In this way we can hopefully keep infection/illness free during this difficult time for all.

Please remember that Mrs Leonard, the Lower School Secretary, is available should you have a query and that tutors are the first point of contact regarding academic issues. This network of care is useful and please feel comfortable contacting either person should you have concerns.

We have been given some information regarding the flu vaccinations which you can find below.

Have a good weekend and stay well.

Yours sincerely



Sister Davies would like to inform you that the Shropshire Immunisation Team will be attending Ellesmere College on Thursday 3rd December to administer nasal flu vaccines to children in Years 4, 5, 6 and 7- (if born after 1/9/08).

A pack will be given out to the eligible children today, Friday 6th November. It contains information for parents and a consent form. Please can parents complete, sign and return the form to their child's form tutor by Friday 20th November. If you do not consent you will still need to sign the section on the form marked "NO CONSENT" and return it to your child's form tutor.

This vaccination programme is in place to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and can sometimes cause serious complications. Some children get a very high temperature, painful ear infections, acute bronchitis, pneumonia and have to be admitted to hospital. Vaccinating your child will also protect more vulnerable friends and family by preventing flu from spreading in your household and the wider community. This is particularly important with the Coronavirus pandemic situation this winter.

Serious side effects are uncommon from the vaccine. Children can commonly develop after the vaccine, a runny or blocked nose, headache, sometimes general tiredness and loss of appetite. This should only last a couple of days. We apologise the vaccine is being given so late in the term but we are not given a choice by the Immunisation Team. This year for the first time Year 7 pupils are included if born after the 1/9/08.

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