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Dear Parent,

Mornings have been glorious towards the end of this week. The Autumn colours are really beautiful at the moment and it has been lovely that the pupils have spent all break and lunchtimes outside in the fresh air. We constantly reinforce the message that we are very lucky to have such a wonderful environment here for learning.

It is good to see that the pupils are returning after the half term break, ready to work hard in class. A number have brought in photographs of the things that they have been doing outside of School. It was nice to hear about a family who are following the progress of a hedgehog group in their back garden. The programme 'Autumn Watch' really inspired some of our young pupils who really are passionate about nature and our natural environment.

Still on this theme, we are committed to trying to reduce the use of plastic in School and ask that all pupils have their own water bottle for their daily use. This reduces the need for plastic bottles of water and plastic cup use. Fruit is available for snack time which in turn reduces the need for children to bring in plastic wrapped sweets etc, certainly, it's healthier too! At lunch time we do keep a watchful eye on pupils and encourage healthy eating habits. Please feel comfortable discussing any food concerns with your child's personal tutor. We will support as much as possible.

The activity programme is still developing. Shooting is popular and squad training is going along well for the major team sports for this term. It is nice that we have Communion Club again and it is well attended, Chess club is also popular. Of course, we also have the usual prep rooms open for pupils who wish to do some prep if their time is tight throughout the week due to a busy schedule. We like children to be busy, busy children are usually more contented. Mrs Rogers (RS) has her eye on incentives to stretch and challenge the children. She sets weekly scenarios to engage inquisitive minds. Many of the tasks are open ended to encourage pupils to engage as much as individually possible.

It was good to see that the Year 7 and 8 girls' and boys' tennis teams have reached the Regional Final of the National Schools competition recently. Well done to Sofie Glinos, Skye Thomas, Emily Males and Alfie Edwards from Lower School. We will watch their progress with interest.

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Sister reported that the recent non-uniform day donations amassed £753. This is a superb amount. Thank you to all families for supporting this venture to raise funds for children's mental health charities. Sister has also asked me to include the following in my newsletter to you.

*There will be a nasal flu vaccine clinic on **Wednesday 17th November**. An information letter and consent form will be sent out this week on Friday 5th November, via in-touch and needs to be returned by Monday 15th November. Paper copies can be given to the tutor or send via email to sisters@ellesmere.com.*

*In addition, the **first Covid vaccine for children between 12 - 16 will be next Monday 8th November**. If the consent form was not returned by 5pm on the 3rd November, a child will not be able to have it at school next week. Also, if children have recently tested positive to Covid on a PCR test, they will have to wait 28 days from the PCR result to have their vaccine. We hope to have a catch-up clinic at school in the new year. Parents are able to take their child to their local vaccination centre at a later date.'*

With absence in mind, please can you keep any child with a cold, cough or that is sneezing at home until all of their symptoms have fully abated. Even though some children can be in school with negative lateral flow tests etc, some are returning with cold like symptoms and this is something we would prefer not to deal with in the pupil/teacher community at present. Thank you for your help and understanding with this.

Thank you for helping us with compliance to keeping a safe community in the College. It is important to note that all visitors in College should be escorted and wear a visitor badge throughout a visit. Parents should call the Lower School Secretary to inform of their arrival in the car park and then Lower School Secretary can arrange any required actions. Parents should feel welcome to attend match teas, etc (when they are possible due to Covid compliance), however, families should stay with the team arrangement and should not wander around the school unaccompanied. Teaching staff have been asked to politely challenge anyone they see without a pass, someone they do not recognise or appear to be in the wrong place etc. I thought a quiet 'heads up' about this to our Lower School parents would alleviate any offence, should it happen.

Have a lovely weekend, I hope that the weather stays fine for you to enjoy some possible relaxation time.

Yours sincerely