



S Owen
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17th November 2017

Dear Parent,

There is a busy atmosphere developing in Lower School.

The Remembrance Service in the College Chapel on Sunday was well attended with a mix of Old Ellesmerians from across the ages and current pupils and their families. Thank you to parents and children for supporting the Royal British Legion with the purchase of poppies. There was an Old Ellesmerian luncheon afterwards and it was good to see many OE Lower School pupils return and visit the College.

The pupils had an informative and educational PSHE day on Wednesday. A variety of topics were covered by the different year groups. These ranged from aspects covering diet and nutritional education to relationship building. The sessions were fun and interactive and the pupils enjoyed them. It was nice to receive a message from one presenter who said that the pupils were polite, attentive and really interested in the topic being covered.

A reminder again that this Friday 17th November is the Year 7 Parents' Meeting. It takes place on the top floor of Lower School, starting at 5.30pm. As previously shared, pupils do not attend this evening and it is preferable that pupils go home. A homework room space can be booked using the slip provided at the end of this letter or a call to Mrs Leonard. However, as you will appreciate, it is difficult to supervise pupils appropriately when teachers are involved in the Parent Meeting; therefore, please use this facility as a last resort if possible.

Congratulations are in order to Isabella Beetham who has recently been selected to train with the Welsh Under 13 Netball squad. In addition, we wish the tennis players and swimmers well in their forthcoming National Competitions at the end of this week. We await news of their progress. I am reliably informed that the swimmers will have a busy New Year of competitions too!

Mrs Fisher, Lower School Housemistress, has asked me to remind parents to advise children that Laser Pens, Nerf Guns, Diablo Games and copious sweets should not be brought to School. This is especially important for boarding pupils.

This will be a final reminder regarding tickets for the Pantomime on Wednesday 6th December. Please call Mrs Leonard if your child has decided they would now like to go. It is also important to return the ice cream choice reply slip. These have to be booked in advance for the pupils.

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We are entering into the busy phase of music rehearsals and play practices in readiness for the Michaelmas Term festivities. Pupils are looking forward to The House Play Festival on the 29th of November. Last year the plays, created, directed and performed by the pupils, were excellent and a testimony to the talent that we have on stage and backstage in Lower School. Mr Baurance is very competitive again this year and already feels that Brownlow House have a great chance to win!

On Wednesday 22nd November the Year 4 and 5 pupils are holding a cake sale in aid of Cat's Protection. If you are able to donate towards the cake sale, all donations would be greatly received.

On Thursday 30th November the KS2 pupils (Years 3, 4, 5, 6) and the Lower School Choir have been invited to the Parents Society lighting of the Christmas Tree. It should be an enjoyable event with carols and refreshments for parents and pupils of KS2. It will be possible for pupils to accompany their parents to the event. Parents are welcome to collect their child at Lower School between 4.10pm and 4.30pm from their form room and then to make their way outside onto the playground. The Lower School Choir go with Mrs Paul to sing and then they can join their parents afterwards. Pupils may then go home directly after the event with their families. KS2 tutors will accompany all unaccompanied children to the event and pupils will then go home under normal arrangements.

It has been good to see pupils also making the most of the badminton, rugby club, cricket nets and 5 aside football clubs. It is a super way to let off steam at lunchtime during the wet spells of weather.

It is still rather muddy and the weather has been cold and damp for break time. We like the pupils to play in the fresh air when at all possible therefore, please could all pupils have a plain outdoor coat for School. A change of footwear that can be kept in School is also a useful addition.

In addition, with dark nights upon us, we have asked pupils to remain under the archway at the front of Lower school at the end of the School day until they are collected by their parent or guardian.

On Friday 1st December, the Parents Society are kindly organising a Christmas Party for the KS2 pupils starting at the end of the School day until 8pm. The cost is £5 to cover treats and food. Payment is due as soon as possible please, along with the returned reply slip below. Upon receipt of the reply slip Mrs Leonard shall issue your child with a ticket.

The KS2 Christmas play is on the afternoon of Thursday 7th December. It is a superb event full of the magic that young children can provide at this special time in the academic calendar. Parents are warmly invited to attend. The performance starts at 3pm and there are light refreshments available from 2.45pm onwards. Children may go home with parents after the performance. Please let a member of staff know that you are taking your child before you go, for child protection and registration purposes.

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As you will appreciate the last few weeks of the Michaelmas Term are incredibly busy. Mrs Allen is organizing the Monduli Bazaar on Monday 4th December starting at 4.40pm in the Big School Hall. Pupils from all areas of the school are busily preparing stalls. Mrs Allen wondered if there are there any parents who would like to help? She is also hopeful of donations of prizes – specifically tombola/raffle prizes. Mrs Allen promises more information next week! If you have any questions or would like to help in any way, please contact cathy.allen@ellesmere.com

Following on from this event is the Lower School Carol service at 7pm in the College Chapel. This is a beautiful and atmospheric event which families can enjoy together. Pupils may either go home as usual and return with parents for 7pm or parents are welcome to book pupils into supper and then collect pupils from Lower School at 6.15pm and then progress to the service. In order to help with organization it would be appreciated if parents could fill in the form at the end of the letter to indicate their family's intentions. Boarders arrangements will specifically be organized by Mrs Fisher, Lower School Housemistress.

I will try to repeat some of this information in the weeks leading up to events in order to help families with arrangements.

It is also worth noting that the end of term finishes and College transport departs at 4.30 pm (one hour earlier) on the last day Friday 8th December.

Please do not hesitate to call Mrs Leonard for clarity should any of the above information requires further expansion.

Have a lovely weekend!

Yours sincerely

CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR KS2 Friday 1st December 5.30pm – 8.00pm

I give permission for
to stay for the Parents' Society KS2 Christmas Party on Friday 1st December

(£5 per ticket with slip please)

- I will be collecting my child from Lower School at 8.00pm (tick if appropriate)
- My child will be collected at 8.00pm by
-

Signed



LOWER SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE Monday 4th December 7.00pm

Pupil's Name.....

My son/daughter will: (please select as appropriate)

Accompany me to the Monduli Bazaar

THEN

Stay for tea and be picked up from Lower School at 6.15pm for the service.

Return home at the normal time and return later with family for the service.

Return home at normal time and will not be attending the service.

Please indicate the number of people attending the service (include pupils in this too)

Thursday 30 th November	Lower School Christmas Tree Lighting (KS2 and Lower School Choir)	4:30pm – Lower School Playground KS2 (Years 3,4,5,6) Parents warmly welcome. Mince pies and mulled wine. Carols Pupils may go home early with parents after signing out.
Friday 1 st December	KS2 Christmas Party £5 per ticket to include food, games and disco	5.30pm – 8pm Top floor of Lower School – party clothes brought to School in the morning.
Monday 4 th December	Monduli Christmas Bazaar	4.40pm – 5.15pm Big School Hall Parents and families welcome to join in the fun.

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		Pupils will require a little spending money. Various options for pupils/parents moving on to Carol Service. Reply slip to follow
	Lower School Carol Service	7pm Chapel Followed by 'Mulled Wine and Mince Pies' in Big School
Wednesday 6 th December	Pantomime Trip – Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury	Back in time for buses Pupils wear School Uniform. Option for collection at Theatre Severn by arrangement.
Thursday 7 th December	KS2 Christmas Play	Refreshments served from 2:45pm in the Arts Centre for a 3pm performance Pupils may go home with parents afterwards after signing out.
Friday 8 th December	End of term	Buses leave at 4.30pm

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