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2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016

Dear Parent,

All too quickly we have arrived at the final newsletter of the Michaelmas Term.

It has been pleasing to see a large number of children have achieved over 5 Commendations for excellence this term. The 'kindness tally' has also grown in size rapidly over the past few weeks and this is also pleasing to see.

In Assembly this week focus was placed upon the use of language. It was pointed out that everyone has a choice to use the wonderful language that is available with a little thought and observation. We emphasized that often people are judged unconsciously on how they communicate as they move into adulthood. We also touched upon the use of private language that sometimes young people choose to use and how inappropriate that can become at times. The message was very clear, that the use of poor language is very much a choice and that poor language between each other and towards others will not be tolerated in Lower School. We celebrate the use of positive written and spoken communication in its many forms.

The KS2 (Years 3,4,5 and 6) are excitedly looking forward to tonight's Christmas party in the Arts Centre. It promises to be a fun packed evening and once again we are thankful to the Parents Society for organizing this special event.

The Monduli Bazaar is organized from 4.30-5.30pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Pupils will require a little spending money and will attend with their form teacher or an Upper School Prefect should it prove difficult for families to attend.

The Lower School Carol Service is on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December and starts at 7pm. If your child is returning home as normal at the end of the School day, to return with you later, it is preferable that they go directly to the Chapel with you for the 7pm start upon your return. The Headmaster has asked me to mention that as it is a service, not a concert, it would not be appropriate for there to be any audio or visual recordings as it may be distracting to pupils and other members of the congregation. Boarders will return to St John's at 5.30pm and attend the service with Mrs Fisher and the House Mother unless boarding families have made arrangements to attend and collect their child from House. We shall look forward to seeing you there.

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

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All remaining day pupils will return to their form room after supper. Please would families call to Lower School between 6pm and 6.25pm to collect their child and make their way to Chapel. The tutors will leave for Chapel at 6.30pm with any unaccompanied child. Please may I warmly invite families to join us in the Big School hall afterwards for festive refreshments. There are refreshments in the Conference Room for parents who may choose to attend the Monduli Bazaar and then collect their child from Lower School for the Carol Service. Supper can be booked for the pupils who are to remain in school. At this later stage –if parents haven't sent in the slip it will be necessary to ring Mrs Leonard to ensure your child is catered for.

The KS2 (Years 3,4,5 and 6) play is on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December in the Arts Centre. Refreshments will be served from 2.45pm for parents, ready for a 3pm start. Parents may take their child home after the performance. Please inform your child's tutor before you depart for home. Any child not being collected can return home in the usual way at the end of the School day.

Adding a little fun and colour to the last few days of the term, next Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, pupils are invited to wear their Christmas Jumper in school. This is to support the charity Shelter in their work for homeless people. £1 donations will be collected in registration from those pupils wishing to take part.

Mrs Paul (Music) has asked me to mention that on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017, members of Years 6, 7 and 8 will have the opportunity to sing in Symphony Hall in Birmingham at a concert organised by the Woodard Foundation. This will be a huge event and will also include members of the Chapel Choir. Parents will be welcome to attend and tickets will require reserving, but will be free of charge. Mrs Paul hopes that all members of Lower School Choir in the above years will be involved and this is also an opportunity for any extras who are not able to attend choir each week, but who like singing, to take part. If your son/daughter would like to be part of this wonderful opportunity, please let Mrs Paul know by the end of next week. [Rebecca.paul@ellesmere.com](mailto:Rebecca.paul@ellesmere.com) Dress on the performance day will be jeans and hoodies. The hoodies will need to be ordered by the end of this term and will cost £10 each.

Looking ahead to next term, please remember that sport focus changes in games for the pupils. KS2 (Years 3,4,5 and 6) boys will play rugby and the girls will play netball.

KS3 (Years 7+8) boys will change to football and the girls play netball.

We also hope that the swimmers have a successful time at the National Arena Swimming League Round 3 event during the holiday!

The Parents Society have a few tables left for Burns Night on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January. Please contact:

[contactecps@gmail.com](mailto:contactecps@gmail.com)

On a medical note, Sister has advised that it may be wise to do a check of your child's hair over the holiday period.

We are encouraging everyone to take equipment home at stages throughout the week. It would be useful if you could pop a carrier bag into their school bag to help them with this. Also please could castles go home too. These are large items which may require help to get them home.

The last day of term is Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December- **please remember that the end of School is one hour earlier than usual.** School transport departs at 4.30pm.

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Ellesmere

A 7 – 18 Coeducational School

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a relaxing Christmas break and a very happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

*Sharon Owen*

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