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Dear Parent,

It has been good to get some nice weather this week. Break time and Games sessions have been far more pleasant for us all.

There is a full fixture list this weekend and we hope that the weather remains fair, to ensure all games go ahead.

We wish the Lower School swimmers well at the Sunderland Open Meeting. Recently the Lower School swimmers performed superbly at the Shropshire County event. Jake Hutchinson and James Raw being top in their age group performances with many Lower School swimmers winning medals in their respective events. It looks very promising for the weekend.

There are varied sporting opportunities in School. Emily Curzon and Francine Gilmore have been performing exceptionally well in Fencing. This follows on from Oscar Crossen, Myles Webster, Dylan Pritchard and Harry Hepburn securing fine performances recently against Packwood Haugh School earlier this month.

On a musical note it is good to see Jack Arrowsmith (Year 8) press on with his musical representation. Jack has just competed in the Championship Section of the Welsh Area Regional Contest. Their success means that the band will now represent in the Championship Section at the Royal Albert Hall in October. Well done Jack!

Mr Dilks, Assistant Head of Lower School Academic, was pleased with the effort and attitude of the Lower School pupils in the recent assessment tests. Pupils have made good use of lunchtime sessions to go through areas that may not have gone so well. This all sets good habits for future study.

It has also been good to see the volume of reading that the Key Stage 2 children do. It is pleasing to see many of the younger children simply reading for fun! It is important that a little reading is completed each day. Any extra time spent reading at home is of great benefit too.

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The Survive and Thrive programme has been enjoyed by the majority of Key Stage 3 pupils once again this term. There has been a carousel of challenging and inspiring sessions for the pupils to follow. Mrs Hibbott has been teaching basic cookery skills in the St John's kitchen. It was lovely to see the group enjoy what they had made, sitting in the sun yesterday!

Open Morning is not far away, Saturday 30th March 10am-12noon. Please let Mrs Leonard, the Lower School Secretary know if your child can come to help on the day.

Our work continues throughout the year to support families to keep children safe online and when using electronic communication. A disappointing craze is 'doing the rounds'. In order to help families to check that their child's communication is safe a poster shall follow in a separate email.

Even though it is a couple of weeks away yet, it is worth noting the earlier finish time on the last Friday of term. School transport departs at 4.30pm and pupils may be collected from School at 4.15pm. This is one hour earlier than usual.

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