



S Owen
Head of Lower School
01691 626511
Email: sharon.owen@ellesmere.com

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Dear Parent,

It has been a good week. The children have been outside a lot, expending energy.

Lessons have been busy and pupils appear to be working well. We have enjoyed Chapel services and activities and it is good to feel a sense of the normal routines returning.

A number of pupils have been nominated for their kindness towards others. The Kindness Wall of recognition is an ongoing event. We do know that children will get things wrong from time to time. It will be a learning experience for many to share and have empathy to the needs of others. However, our message is always clear and firm in respect of this.

Personal tutors have been working away at making the initial contact calls to all parents of their tutees. Please remember that the personal tutor is there for families as the first line of contact with any information or concern. Mrs Arrowsmith and Mrs Lowe, the Lower School Secretaries are on hand to help should families wish to email or telephone with a question. If they do not know the answer to a query, they will find out for you, or point you in the right direction.

We have a prep room open at lunch times. Pupils are encouraged to manage their time effectively and should another activity cut across the evening prep slot, they may work in the prep room to balance their studies. Personal tutors will help with this. Prep should only last for 20 minutes per subject in Years 7 and 8. KS2 teachers will set spellings and reading and generally lead with any directive for that age group. Should a child take much more time and struggle with this, please chat to their personal tutor who will help. We do not wish children to become anxious learners at such a young age, maybe give it a week or so for patterns to settle.

We are lucky to have a friendly and active Parent Society at Ellesmere, who organise some wonderful events. They warmly open an invitation to any parent who would like to join their group. They have meetings and a good social time together too. They can be contacted directly on the email ecps@ellesmere.com.

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286

www.ellesmere.com

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Lunch time activities are going along well. Cricket nets have been popular and chess club is attracting much attention. Indoor football, netball and hockey take place in the sports hall. Information regarding any fixture can be found on the Parent Portal or by email to Mr Williams, Director of Sport should things become confusing lan.williams@ellesmere.com.

Still on a fixture note, it is worth checking the White College Calendar for the forthcoming fixtures. Pupils should play if selected. They will also need a full school uniform for match tea. It is an expectation that all players take the opposition to match tea. We like to promote the etiquette that surrounds playing sport in a friendly and sociable way. Parents are warmly welcome to spectate and join afterwards for refreshments. Please contact either Mr Williams or the individual coaching member of staff with any questions. Please could a letter be directed to the Headmaster should a child have problems with playing if they are selected and please give the coaches a decent amount of notice to allow another selection etc.

We hope that the swimmers and netball players enjoy their competition this weekend and we will watch their performances with interest.

Please could we ask that parents inform the Lower School office when children are collected early from school on the Lower School telephone number 01691 626511. Similarly, should a child need to leave early for medical appointments etc, please call the Lower School secretary, who will bring your child out to you.

Have a good weekend once it arrives.

Yours sincerely