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11th March 2022

Dear Parent

Thank you for the support of the MacMillan nurses fund this week. The pupils always enjoy wearing their home clothes for a day and the £2 donation gives a real boost to that fund.

The Oswestry Festival is now completed and it was wonderful that our musicians, singers and performers were able to compete again. It was good to hear the children share their experiences, the main part for them was actually the fun of the event and the enjoyment gained from performing again. We were very successful in many classes. Mr Coupe will be sending out a general overview of the event and positions in a separate InTouch mail. I am looking forward to hearing the choir perform their winning pieces in assembly on Monday. We really do have a large number of talented individuals in Lower School.

Mr Atherton took our chess team to compete in a national competition last week. The team performed superbly well and narrowly lost out on first place by only two points. We look forward to the next challenge. The interest in chess has burgeoned over the past two years. I think there is a correlation with the fact that we have two very competitive teachers challenging the children whenever they can!

We intend to take the Year 8 pupils ten pin bowling as a social treat soon. Further details, times and dates have been circulated separately. This is not a compulsory trip. However, we felt that the Year 8 group have missed out on so many nice events during lockdown, we would like to take the children somewhere before they move on to Middle School. We are very fond of the lovely children that are in that year group and we will be sad to see them move on. They are performing particularly well on many fronts at the moment. Mr Dilks is determined to be Top Bowler again! The challenge is set!

It is good to see that the fixture programme has only been slightly affected by the weather. There have been some good netball games and similarly the boys have enjoyed rugby and football matches.

We have enjoyed whole of Lower School Chapel services recently and it is good to feel part of a large community again. Reverend Gration has been pleased with the number of children attending Communion Club too. Due to the popularity of this class, the Reverend runs multiple sessions. We are looking towards the end of the academic year to give opportunity for pupils to take First Communion. Obviously, this has been on hold due to the recent pandemic and we need to catch up!

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It is assessment week next week, it has certainly come around at a pace again. Classes carry on as normal and pupils are into the swing of these snapshot checks. The assessments can take place any time in the sessions leading up to Period Grades and give a benchmarking indication of progress. The second Period Grade for this term will be produced in week eleven.

With things getting back to a little bit like normality, it is worth parents being aware of the College Parent Group which is generally known as ECPS (Ellesmere College Parents' Society). The group have meetings through the term and those dates are usually posted in the White College calendar. It is a good way to be involved in events in school and to meet other parents. They can be contacted on ecps@ellesmere.com.

The ground is still quite heavy in College. Therefore, it is helpful if children keep a spare pair of playing shoes/trainers in their locker. It is more comfortable for the children to have clean and dry shoes in lessons and it saves a great deal of cleaning too.

As the term progresses, so does the size of the lost property bin. Please contact the Lower School secretaries should your child need help to locate a long-lost item. We rarely have any items taken on purpose at Ellesmere, however due to the pace of the week, items do become detached from their owners and it really does help to name everything too please.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend, when it arrives.

Yours sincerely