



S Owen
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2 September 2022

Dear Parent,

I hope that all families have had a good Summer and the children are looking forward to being back in school. We are looking forward to the new term and welcoming all new pupils, our aim is to get everyone settled into routines quickly.

Mrs Pritt-Roberts has opened the Parent Portal now arrangements for the term are organised and timetables, etc can be accessed in readiness for Monday. Pupils will require their sports kit as Games sessions and Squads will start on the first day. They will also require a pencil case with basic stationery items, mathematics teachers will guide pupils regarding suitable calculators. It is also useful to bring in a named water bottle.

Each pupil has a personal locker space which requires a padlock. It will be best to buy one with a fairly narrow, long bar to fit through the mechanism. It is best to leave valuable items at home, however, should expensive items come into School, i.e. laptops, etc it is wise for families to cover the items with insurance.

It is a good time to get uniform rules correct. Ties should be neatly tied, shoes clean and bags packed with all equipment, ready for a business-like start to learning. Please could all items be clearly named, it is rare that items become lost permanently, however, naming items will certainly help us return them quickly to the owner.

Dr Chatterjee, Deputy Head Pastoral has asked that I remind families to check College guidance regarding hair. Long hair should be tied back and no extreme styles should exist with steps, fades, colours nor the latest 'mullet' style. Short hair should not touch the collar of the shirt.

The rules on mobile phone use is strict in Lower School. Mobile phones and devices such as watches and tablets that connect to phones are not allowed in the school day. The primary focus of the school day is certainly for learning, interacting with others and sharing experiences. Mobile telephones should be switched off and locked in personal lockers for the school day. They are essentially just used for homeward travel. It is also useful to remember that pupils should not be using social media apps that are unsuitable for their age. Families are encouraged to regularly monitor the use of any inter-pupil communications. Any essential calls to or from home should go via Mrs Arrowsmith and Mrs Lowe, the Lower School secretaries.

On that note, please feel comfortable contacting Mrs Arrowsmith and Mrs Lowe on the telephone or by email to ask any question: lowerschoolsecretary@ellesmere.com or 01691 626511.

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Pupils have a personal tutor, these members of staff are the first point of contact for all issues. They are best placed to then direct any concern to the correct place. Personal tutors will be in contact with families over the first week or so. Please share which method of communication that you prefer with your child's personal tutor.

Year 7 pupils will have the opportunity to go on a PGL residential trip during expeditions this term, a separate letter will follow for Year 7 families.

It is good to remember that the first few weeks rarely run perfectly. There will be things to clarify and sort through as we go along. We aim to get all children as happy and settled as quickly as possible. It is good to extend friendships and try new things. Personal tutors will have a focus on this.

We are looking forward to meeting families over the forthcoming weeks of School.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,