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Dear Parent,

We could feel the disappointment of the children and Games staff when the first cricket fixtures were cancelled due to rain last weekend. We reflected that last year we were in the middle of a scorching heat wave. This week has been difficult to predict weather-wise. Shorts and sunshine one minute followed by hail, rain, thunder and an umbrella the next. We are hoping that we can play a fixture very soon.

Monday will bring a few changes to our routines in school. It will still be necessary for Year 7 and 8 pupils to bring in face coverings, these will be required for some situations. School transport will still require them. It is also very important for pupils to bring a personal drink bottle for water too. I noticed a few pupils were not drinking water through the day this week. This will be even more essential when the weather turns warmer.

The focus for Assembly this week was to reinforce the value of honesty and truthfulness. It is good to see that on the whole our Lower School pupils do see that it is seen as a positive personal attribute to maintain such approaches, even when things may go wrong from time to time. This has a link to the focus that we place upon 'kindness' too. The 'Kindness Wall' continues to grow with pupil nominations for children who have made someone's day a little more pleasant.

We have had a productive 'Assessment Week' this week. Mr Dilks, Assistant Head Academic, and Mrs Phillips, KS2 Academic Lead, reinforced the importance of the assessments. At the same time, they pointed out the need for the assessments to be kept in perspective and for individuals to simply work hard and try one's best. We hold the view that mistakes may be made, however it's what an individual does about rectifying and learning from the mistake, that truly counts. With this in mind pupils will be encouraged to go through results and talk through areas with subject teachers. The work room is available each lunchtime and support can be given during prep time too. Pupils are also encouraged to talk to their personal tutor as Period Grades will be produced soon.

There are only 2 more weeks for entries for the competition to commemorate the life and work of HRH Prince Phillip. Please encourage children to either write prose, poems or create art work of any design using photography, painting or sketches. Please ask children to hand their named entry to Mrs Leonard. There have been some lovely pieces so far.

Personal items of kit can go astray from time to time. Please could you check that all items are clearly named so that all items can swiftly be returned to the owner. All pupils require a padlock for personal locking spaces and mobile telephones must be locked away during registration in the morning.

It's worth checking your child's mobile phone use. We do not have mobile telephone use during a school day and as such issues to do with misuse are a parental/family responsibility. There are certain apps/social media sites that have age appropriate guidance. It is worth checking from time to time.

Unfortunately, we are still restricted regarding visitors in school. Please feel comfortable contacting your child's personal tutor with a concern. Similarly, Mrs Leonard can help too, she is contactable by email on lowerschoolsecretary@ellesmere.com or by telephone on 01691 626511.

Have a good weekend when it arrives.



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