

Dear Parents,

As a school, we recognise that residential visits are an invaluable part of the National Curriculum and the children benefit enormously from the experience, both educationally, emotionally and socially. Therefore, I am delighted to be able to inform you that we would like to offer the children an exciting opportunity to go on a residential visit when they are in Year Six.

We have provisionally booked a five day residential with Longtown outdoor learning centre, who are a company that specialise in residential trips for children of this age. The residential will take place from Monday 29th October until Friday 2nd November. This is the first year that we have decided to use this centre as it is in a stunning location in the Brecon Beacons National Park and provides children with the opportunity to experience many aspects of an environment that they wouldn't have encountered before, including caving and other outdoor challenging pursuits. We have decided to book it for next year, as it has been recommended to us from a number of other schools that it is a wonderful, well organised and structured experience for the children, taking place in a warm and comfortable base in an old coaching inn. The children will be able to enjoy homemade cooking each day and demonstrate independence and responsibility, with helping to serve and tidy away – skills that we feel are invaluable. Another positive is the fact that the centre provides waterproofs, wellington boots, walking boots and a rucksack for every single child and so there is no unnecessary costs added to your bill!

We anticipate that the approximate cost for the residential is £235 which includes all activities, food, board and transport by seat belted coach to and from the centre. This costing is based on all the children going; however the cost may increase slightly if some pupils decide not to participate in the residential. We will need to have a minimum number of children attend the trip, in order to make it viable, otherwise it may have to be cancelled. I will let you know of any changes to the cost, once we are aware of how many pupils are attending.

As a school, we recognise that this is a large amount of money in the current climate; however we believe that your child will benefit greatly from the experience. To ensure that the cost is more manageable; parents are more than welcome to pay in smaller instalments and therefore we will implement a payment plan system from the outset. Please be aware that the payments will need to be received by the due dates in the plan.

To ensure parents have a clear understanding of the trip and the centre itself, we will be holding a meeting for parents on **Wednesday 28th March** at 6.00pm in the school hall. During the meeting, Mike (the centre manager) will be able to provide you with a flavour of the residential and the experiences that your child will have. If you are happy for your child to go, please be aware that an initial **non-refundable deposit of £50** and a signed permission slip will be required by **Monday 23rd April**. A letter with a permission slip will be given to parents at the meeting.

I am sure that the children will be very excited by the prospect of the residential and we are certain that it really will be a fantastic experience for them all. Please do visit their website directly to give you a taster of what is to come: www.longtownoutdoorlearning.co.uk

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Oldham

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