

Kingsfleet Primary School

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Headteacher : Mrs K E Beattie BEd (Hons) NPQH

7th July 2017



Year 6 Residential Experience October 2017

30th October to 1st November



Dear Parents/Carers,

You may be wondering why you are receiving a letter about the Year 6 residential trip before your child has finished Year 5.....let me explain. It's quite wordy, so you might want to make yourself a cup of tea/coffee!

Due to the high demand for residential visits to the Mersea Outdoor Centre, our preferred accommodation has been booked for the dates we would be able to go in Summer 2018. We have been offered alternative accommodation but the bathroom facilities are not part of the accommodation block, not an insurmountable problem, but it did make us reflect and look at breaking with tradition of a Summer residential and instead going on an Autumn term residential instead.

The more we thought the more we realised what a valuable experience this could be for the children at the start of their Year 6. It provides a fantastic opportunity for team building at the start of the academic year. Traditionally it has been seen as an event after SATs and of course we would still plan in activities for them in the Summer term. This year we have provided a full week of activity; 3 days at Mersea and 2 days of offsite activities when they return to school. The intention for the Year 6 next year would be to go to Mersea in October for three days and school offsite activity days would take place in Summer term.

Another factor for our decision is the increasing number of transition activities with the High Schools and sporting events that take place in the second half of the Summer term. This is great for the children and we want to avoid any potential date clashes.

So, we have provisionally booked into Ingram Lodge again. This lodge is just over three years old and has its own communal area, toilets and showers. The sleeping accommodation is divided into 5 rooms each with four bunk beds.

Mersea Outdoor Centre has an excellent track record for providing exciting challenges that enable all children to work together as a team, develop independence, confidence and an ability to recognise their strengths. For further information about the center please check the website: www.essexoutdoors.org

All of the activities offered by Essex Outdoors are delivered by staff that have been trained in accordance with both Essex County Council and national governing body (NGB) guidelines. The centre has been inspected and approved by the Adventurous Activities Licensing Authority (AALA). All staff hold a current DBS Certificate and have attended safeguarding training. Qualified First Aiders are always on site and a duty member of staff is always on-site 24-hours a day.

The children will have 3 days of activities and a 2 night stay. The programme of activities has not been confirmed as our booking is only provisional, however the children will experience 10 activity sessions which could include any of the following; Adventure Course, Archery, Climbing, High Ropes and much more.

Cost

We are mindful of the fact that all school trips are increasing in cost and have tried to reduce the cost of this trip by choosing excellent facilities in the closest location to Felixstowe.

We are also aware that in previous years parents/carers have been given an eight month window in which to pay for the trip and of course this time window has been greatly reduced. If this causes you any difficulties please contact either myself, Mrs Robinson or Mrs Kendall.

	Cost
Accommodation, activity sessions and full catering	£187.08
Transport	£17.30
TOTAL	£204.38

The travel cost is based on all of the children going. It is therefore possible that the price will increase slightly if a full uptake is not forthcoming. For these reasons It is essential that we establish the uptake for this experience, so that we are able provide a final costing and secure a booking.

Funding support for this activity may be available to you if you are in receipt of Income Support or Jobseekers Allowance or are experiencing difficulties. Please see the attached letter. A weekly savings scheme will also be available, details of which will be sent out once the trip has been confirmed.

If you want your child to participate in the residential experience, please complete and return the attached form along with a £20 non-refundable deposit, to the main school office by Friday 14th July 2017.

We appreciate that this trip can be very exciting for some and a source of anxiety for others so, please come and see me if you have any initial enquiries or concerns.

Kind regards
KE Beattie
Headteacher

Year 6 – Residential Visit to Mersea Outdoor Centre October 2017

Child's name.....

Please delete as appropriate.

- I would like to register my intent for my child to take part in the visit to the Mersea Outdoor Centre.
- I enclosed a £20.00 cash/cheque non-refundable deposit.
- My child will not be taking part in the visit to the Mersea Outdoor Centre.

Signed.....Parent/Carer Date.....