



Stamford Green Primary School



24 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 5 Trip to High Ashurst Wednesday 5 May 2021

Current government guidance advises against all educational visits. This is being kept under review but as decisions need to be made regarding plans for the summer term, we have made the difficult decision to cancel all residential trips this academic year. Making this decision now gives us the chance to plan for day trips which will run if government guidance allows but can also be cancelled more easily if the guidance does not change. Current guidance asks schools to follow four steps when considering how to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in school activities:

1. Elimination: Stop an activity that is not considered essential if there are risks attached
2. Substitution: Replace the activity with another that reduces the risk.
3. Engineering Controls: Design measures that help control or mitigate risk.
4. Administrative Controls: Identify and implement the procedures to improve safety.

We have considered these principles and have decided to *eliminate* residential trips and *substitute* them with day trips (if guidance changes to allow these). We will then ensure that *engineering* and *administrative* controls are in place to reduce the risk as far as possible.

Due to the cancellation of the Y4 residential last year, we have been working on alternative options and I am now pleased to announce that we have booked an extended day visit to High Ashurst near Dorking, for Wednesday 5 May 2021. We are excited that the children may still be able to take part in the activities offered at High Ashurst even if they cannot stay overnight.

High Ashurst Outdoor Learning Centre is set in 56 acres of woodland on Box Hill, near Dorking <https://www.surreyoutdoorlearning.uk/facilities/high-ashurst>. The centre offers a wide range of activities such as climbing, woodland skills, challenge courses and our exact timetable will be confirmed before we go. Our visits will most certainly include a night walk and the legendary camp fire. We will be leaving school by coach at 9.00am and returning at approximately 9.15pm. The children will need to bring a packed lunch with them on the day. If you would like your child to have a school packed lunch please book a lunch on Scopay in the usual way at least 48 hours before the trip. A hot evening meal will be provided by the centre and is included in the costings below.

Until final numbers are known, we cannot provide an exact cost of the trip as the 'per child' cost is calculated by dividing the cost of transport and activities by the number of children attending. We are however, currently working on a figure of between £60.00 - £65.00. If you would like your child to take part in this trip please can you login to Scopay and give your permission and pay a voluntary deposit of £30.00 by 31 March 2021. We confirm that the voluntary contribution represents our estimate of the costs of providing this activity shared equally amongst all pupils. Please rest assured that should the trip need to be cancelled any voluntary contributions made will either be returned to you or held on your child's Scopay account for future events or visits.

As the resources of the school are limited, the proposed visit will not take place if there are insufficient voluntary contributions to cover the cost of the visit. If you would like to contribute but are currently experiencing financial difficulties please can you discuss the visit and payment with me as there is always a solution and absolute confidentiality is assured.

If you have not given your permission by 31.3.21 we will assume that you do not wish your child to take part. I appreciate that this deadline is sooner than we would have hoped but the booking has been made with what availability the centre had. Unfortunately, once we have finalised the details and booked the trip we will not be able to add any more children, so it is important that you respond by the deadline if you wish your child to attend. A further instalment will be payable before the trip can go ahead and this will be notified to you as soon as final numbers are known.

If there are any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Thorpe or myself at school.

Kind regards,

Mrs L Druce
Headteacher
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