



9th July 2018

Dear Parents

Swattenden Year 4 Residential Visit 2019

In Year 4 we organise a residential visit in Term 5. We will send further information about costs in September however you may like to read this information to discuss with your child over the summer to decide if they might like to join the visit. We have been organising this visit at Meopham for over 10 years and we have developed the visit from our experiences. The visit is booked for **Wednesday 8th May 2019 to Friday 10th May 2019**. There will be a meeting for parents about a month before the visit when all relevant information will be explained in more detail. However, if you have any additional questions please contact Miss Dean via the office.

Aims of the visit

To provide pupils with additional 'Outdoor and Adventurous activities' which are part of the P.E. curriculum

To develop the children's independence

To provide opportunities for children to gain confidence through participation in varied activities

Possible activities

These cannot be confirmed until April next year; this is to ensure that the centre have the appropriately qualified staff available during our visit. Many of the activities require staff with specific qualifications and the time within the week that they happen may vary depending upon the weather conditions. We encourage all children to take part in each activity at their own level. We praise success at each level whether it is climbing 3 steps up a ladder or jumping with confidence down a zip wire.

We try to balance the activities to suit most children - archery, zip wire, raft building, team challenges (large puzzle building, untangling knotted ropes), orienteering, climbing (on a wall 8 ft high - the children climb along the wall, not up it!), adventure course (which yes, I am afraid, it may involve getting muddy if it has been raining).

All the activities which are 'off the ground' are run following stringent safety rules including wearing body harnesses and hard hats. The rafts are tested across a small lake - all children within 5m of the lake have to wear buoyancy aids. All this equipment is supplied and checked by the centre staff.

Cost of the visit

The visit will cost approximately £180. This amount will be confirmed in September with details of payment.

Care of your child

The centre holds a 'Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge' which ensure all the equipment, accommodation and instructors comply with health and safety regulations. During the activities there will always be at least one Meopham adult and one member of centre staff with the group of children. The school adult will hold responsibility for children's medical needs during the visit.

Accommodation

The children will stay in 'The Mansion' in dormitories of up to 12 children. The boys and girls sleep in separate rooms and the adults are in rooms adjacent to the children. The children are given a full fire safety talk by the centre staff on arrival. The accommodation holds the centre offices which are manned during the day. Once the offices are closed, the building is accessed only through a secure key code system. There may be other groups at the centre during our stay, however, it is unlikely they will be staying in the mansion, although this has happened in the past (without any problems). All the meals are cooked on site. The menu provides the children with a balanced diet which ensures they have the energy to take part in the activities. There is a choice of food at each meal including a salad bar for lunch and dinner. The catering staff are able to cater for medical dietary needs.

What if I decide for my child not to go?

The majority of children do join the visit – we have had between 2 and 11 children decide not to go in the past. Depending upon the number of children staying at school, their time will be timetabled accordingly.

Quotes from parents

'My child has cut the apron strings now....I'll have to be careful not to tie them up again.'

'My child has grown in confidence.. she will now try new food/activities with a new sense of confidence.'

'My child will now load the dishwasher without asking!!!!' (No I'm afraid we do not offer this as an activity)

'He can now put his duvet into the cover' (yes they do have to make their own bed!)

Quotes from children

'I learned different skills and to play with different people'

'I learnt that it is better to listen, it is more fun for the games'

'I learned to trust people'

'I learned 2 heads are better than 1'

'I learned to go away from my mum for a week'

Yours sincerely,

Miss Dean

Educational Visits Coordinator

