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Headteacher: Mr Iain Horner

25th November 2016

To the parents of Year 5/6 children 2017-18 (Current Year 4/5)

Dear Parents,

We have booked a residential visit to Woodlands Outdoor Education Centre for 4th September – 8th September, 2017. The Woodlands centre is situated in Glasbury-on-Wye, Wales. The centre is staffed by teachers with outdoor activity qualifications, who are responsible for the supervision of the activities; which may include: caving, mountain walking, jungle gym, orienteering and problem solving. These activities should allow the Year 5/6 children to build on some of the skills that they learnt on the visits to Braeside and Court Hill and be a great way to build their independence, as they near the end of their time at primary school.



You may well have noticed that the dates we have booked fall in the first week of the academic year. Whilst this clearly presents some organisational challenges for both you as parents and the school staff, we felt that this week offers many positives for our new Year 5s and 6s and was preferable to the other dates available. As Woodlands is such a popular venue, many schools have booked up their preferred dates years in advance (we have now booked ours for 2019!) and other options were either in the depths of winter, directly before SATs or in the last week of term in July. The plus points to visiting in the first week of September include:

- A great chance for teambuilding at the beginning of the year. Staff and pupils will really get to know each other and it will be a strong platform to build on.
- The better weather (hopefully!) and long evenings should allow the children to enjoy the full range of activities without needing to worry about being cold, damp and muddy.
- We will have the centre to ourselves with no need to share with another school.
- Parents will not need childcare on Monday 4th September (which would otherwise be an INSET day), unless you have younger children – sorry!

To reduce some of the organisational difficulties that may arise from not being in school the week before the visit, we will make sure that admin details, equipment lists etc. are communicated well before the summer holidays. I will also be in school on Friday 1st September for any parents who may need to discuss issues that have arisen over the summer holidays, collect medication or answer any last minute questions. I will also be available via e-mail throughout most of August.

The week is exciting and demanding, both in the physical sense and in the requirement to co-operate as part of a responsible team, as well as being accountable for individual actions and property. The resident staff will look for examples of good teamwork and strength of character in meeting new challenges and children will be encouraged to demonstrate independence and initiative. On residential visits such as this, children of all confidence levels are able to improve hugely and the value of this visit cannot be overstated.



The overall cost of the week will be £320 (price frozen from 2015-16). The cost covers: qualified supervision, return travel by coach, minibus use throughout the week, insurance, all meals and board and use of specialist equipment for the activities. The equipment provided includes: walking boots, waterproof anorak/trousers/backpack for daily use, fleece, caving suit, helmet, light and Wellington boots for the caving days. Parents in receipt of Income Support and Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, who cannot meet the full cost of the visit, please see the office staff or the class teachers.

The centre is owned and run by Oxfordshire Education Authority and is non-profit making. Rising prices over the years reflect rising costs and the need for the Woodlands centre, like other centres, to maintain financial viability. We are required to ask for an initial non-returnable deposit of £75 by 10th February 2017, as this will need to be forwarded to Woodlands to confirm our places. Please send a first payment, along with the attached slip, to the school office. This does not have to be the full £75 in the first instance. Upon returning a first payment, you will be provided with a payment book to keep track of monies paid.

You are, of course, then welcome to pay the balance in full, or instalments (large or small).



We will be holding an information meeting for parents and pupils on Monday January 16th at 5:15pm in the school hall. Children may be apprehensive about going, particularly if they don't have an older sibling who has already been on a residential visit such as this before. If this is the case, please come along to the meeting and we will do our best to reassure them. We are keen to take as many of the pupils as possible and if we are made aware of potential issues, it is more likely that we can find a way of overcoming them. Last year, we managed to take our entire Year 5/6 cohort and it would be fantastic if we didn't leave anyone behind again this time.

Should you have any other queries, please pop in to see either of us or raise them at the information meeting.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Horner and Miss Regan





WOODLANDS 2017

Please return to the SCHOOL OFFICE LETTERBOX, in an envelope clearly marked 'WOODLANDS'.

I would like my child

_____ (full name)
to take part in the Year 5/6 residential visit to Woodlands
Outdoor Education Centre, 4th September – 8th September,
2017. I enclose a cheque for £75 as a non-returnable
deposit.

Deposit to be paid by 10th February 2017.
(Cheques payable to OCC Chesterton Primary School)

Signed: _____ Parent/Guardian Date: _____

ALL CHEQUES FOR THIS VISIT MUST BE TAKEN PERSONALLY TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE AND POSTED INTO THE BLACK LETTERBOX , PLEASE DO **NOT** SEND MONEY INTO CLASSROOMS.