



MIDHURST C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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January 5th 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians

**RESIDENTIAL VISIT TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT
MONDAY MARCH 26TH TO FRIDAY MARCH 30TH**

Following the evening meeting held in school at the very end of November we did promise to pass on useful information for those families who were unable to attend. Two weeks later the christmas holidays were upon us and good intentions were lost amidst a flurry of tinsel and carols – so many apologies to those who have been waiting. I hope the bullet point notes below are useful – we have 2 copies of the DVD that was used on the evening in school, if anyone is keen to borrow it.

- Kingswood has many outdoor centres – we are going to the Isle of Wight activity centre in Bembridge.
- Kingswood have over 30 years experience in running school residential visits– to find out more they have a very comprehensive website – www.kingswood.co.uk
- The Isle of Wight centre is on a totally safe, secure site, with staff available 24 hours of the day with a night patrol. Access is via a coded electronic gate, with staff wearing security badges at all times. Risk assessments of all activities are regularly undertaken and all staff are first aid trained.
- We have chosen an Adventure Choice activity break but are yet to decide on the activities on offer each day – this will be done nearer the time, preferably in discussion with the children.
- Departure will be on Monday 26th March when you will need to provide your child with a packed lunch for the journey. We arrive at Kingswood at approximately 3pm. Bags will need to be carried by your children (so please not TOO heavy a bag!) to the bagging area and then we get to meet everyone – this will include our Group leader and Instructors. A tour of the centre is followed by a practice of lining up in our “activity lines” – an exercise used to account for children quickly during a fire drill practise as well as checking clothing and equipment for activities. Then we will find our rooms.
- Accommodation – Boys and girls separate – bedding is included but the children have to make their own beds which could prove interesting! Room sizes have yet to be decided and again we will work with your children on deciding who shares with whom, we do try very hard to help children feel happy, safe and comfortable in their rooms.
- Food – all meals are provided at Kingswood from the evening meal on Monday to lunch on Friday. Hot and cold options are always available and special dietary requirements are catered for, such as vegetarians. Forms nearer the time will ask you to specify any food allergies your children may have, so everyone is well catered for. Hot chocolate is served before bedtime at 9.30pm – lights are out at 10pm every night. It was suggested that your children may like to bring a refillable drinks bottle with them to enable them to have easy access to water at all times.

- Each full day includes 7 activities! Even on Friday there will be 2 activities offered in the morning before we have lunch and travel back. Your children will be exhausted! There is a vast range of activities available but it is worth noting that NO CHILD under ANY CIRCUMSTANCES will be forced to take part in anything they don't wish to do. Every child's individual interests, needs and abilities will be catered for and taken into consideration by all staff at all times.
- Kit – a more detailed kit list will be sent out to you – but at the meeting long sleeve tops were flagged up as important, as many activities require arms to be covered for safety. Trousers are best, as opposed to skirts or shorts, but preferably not jeans as they take ages to dry, two pairs of trainers are useful as one pair can be drying out while another pair is worn. Layering up is best! A disco will possibly be offered on the Thursday evening so some of the children may want to bring their best dancing gear for this one – I know Mr Aldren can't wait! ;-) A bin bag for washing is a good idea to pack – however I have yet to convince either of my own 2 boys that separating dirty clothes from clean on a residential is a good thing, so I wish you luck!
- Money – there are NO VENDING MACHINES on the site and only one souvenir shop in which the children can spend any money. £10 was recommended on the evening as more than enough but we will discuss this further with the children and let you know the maximum we feel is reasonable. Children will be responsible for their own money throughout the trip.
- Medical forms will be sent out for you to fill in, along with instructions for how any medication needs to be handed in – this will include dealing with children who may suffer from travel sickness.
- Valuables – Kingswood discourage children from packing anything valuable for their residential trip, no phones or handheld games will be allowed. There will simply not be time to use them – we will provide emergency numbers for parents and will be in touch with school to let them know how we are getting on throughout the week. Cameras are allowed, disposable ones are encouraged but nowadays many children have their own digital cameras which they can bring, but at their own risk. We will also be taking plenty of photos of your children having a fantastic time too!

Further details and forms to be filled in will be out soon – we are waiting for Kingswood to send us the room numbers and the relevant paperwork before we can get going on this. However can I take this opportunity to remind you that the remaining balance for the full cost of the trip is due by the end of January. Mrs Cain in the school office is dealing with the money so if you have any queries or concerns please don't hesitate to pop in and see her.

This term is a short one and our week away will be here before we know it –we are sure it will be a fantastic experience for all involved. We hope this information is useful, rest assured more will follow, but meanwhile if you have any concerns, worries or just fancy a chat about the week then please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Mr Aldren and we will be glad to listen and help.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sally Clarke

Mr Peter Aldren