

Monday 2 December 2019

Re: Y4 Trip to Hollowford

Dear Y4 Parents/Carers,

We hope that you will be able to attend the launch meeting for this trip on Wednesday 4th December 3.30pm in Y4 Owls classroom and hear about the exciting opportunities and challenges that the children will face.

We have been made aware of a number of families concerned about the cost of the Y4 trip to Holllowford Outdoor Education centre for the two full days on 20th & 21st April 2020. This letter is intended to give a little background about the thinking behind the new trip and associated costs and to answer a few questions ahead of the meeting this Wednesday.

Following feedback from and evaluation of all residential trips, the programme of these has been adjusted for the Current Y4 cohort – the main driver behind this was cost. Historically we have encouraged residential in Y4, Y5 and Y6. Based on last year's costs this would be a total of £517. We are not planning to take Y5 on a residential to the Kingswood Centre, Dearne Valley next year; a saving of approximately £160. With the increased cost of the Hollowford trip, this still equates to a saving of £83.

The main reason that Hollowford is more expensive than previous Y4 trips is because of the ratios of children to highly qualified instructors that they operate (1:10) and the bespoke package that they offer. As we are reducing our residential down to just two in KS2 from next year, the Y4 residential will have more advanced activities with high expectations that need more adult supervision too. A programme of both on site and off site high quality adventurous activities has been planned especially for our group – it is not a “one size fits all”. These smaller ratios ensure maximum participation throughout the sessions. The standard of accommodation and catering is also of a higher quality than some other centres offering residential visits to school parties.

A breakdown of the costs for this trip are as follows:

Accommodation & food:	£55.20
Activities:	£20.19 per ½ day x 4 £80.74
Coach transport total:	£15.00
sQuid payment fees @ 1.2%	£1.81
Tuck shop:	£1.25
Total:	£154.00

Whilst we are very conscious of the cost for this trip, we believe that the children will have a real educational, learning experience and take away memories of achievements that we simply cannot recreate in our school environment. We want all our Y4 children to access this fantastic opportunity so if any parents are having genuine difficulty meeting the costs of the trip, please speak individually to The Senior Leadership team in

confidence. Alongside this, any families on Free School Meals (pupil premium) will get additional support so please do speak to Mrs Hardy/Mr Jahangir in confidence too.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting on Wednesday evening.

Kind regards

Emma Hardy
Head Teacher

Guy Willatt
Deputy Head

Nicole Ramsey
Deputy Head