



Dear Parents and Carers,

12th June 2020

Bude visit September 2020

Further to my letter on 11th June re the Bude journey, I wished to address some of the concerns raised by parents.

Why do we take the children on this school journey in September?

We actively choose to go in September, so our children enjoy the benefits described for the rest of the year. Our slot is September, other schools also have their regular slots too and the post SATs weeks are very popular with many schools. We are a large group and squeezing us in will not be an option at this prime time. If we turn down our slot there is no guarantee that we will be able to go at all which would be such a shame for the children.

The School journey to Bude is a rite of passage for many children and memories can be made that will last a lifetime. At the end of Year 6, the children almost always site their visit to Bude as the highlight, and lasting memory, of their time at HJS.

The Bude visit is designed to prepare the children as they face the challenges of year 6, support their mental health and ensure they are able to make the most of their final year of HJS. The benefits to the children and how they learn in year 6 are clearly seen and recognised by the year 6 team. The children develop and grow in so many ways, certainly becoming more resilient, independent and confident; making new friendships and building strong relationships with staff, facing and overcoming problems which they didn't believe they could. This is why we arrange the trip at the start of the first term.

Is it safe to go to Bude?

The visit to Bude will only go ahead if it is safe for children and staff. Our judgment of this will be informed by DFE and PHE guidance. The visit is also dependant on the children returning to school in normal classes of 30, in addition to lockdown and social distancing being relaxed.

Why do we have to plan now?

A journey for 78 children and 10 staff is complex and requires a huge amount of organisation. Given the DFE track record, we may not receive guidance until late August, however this would be too late to successfully organise the visit for September. If the planning isn't started now the visit won't be able to happen.





Shouldn't the children be focusing on catching up after missing so much?

The independence, confidence, resilience and improved mental health gained from the visit are invaluable particularly at this time. The 5 days of learning outside the classroom this visit provides, will enable year 6 and beyond to be more focused, productive and successful.

What will happen if we are unable to go as it's not safe in September?

I am optimistic that we will be able to go as planned if it is safe to do so. If this is not the case and the centre is not running then we will work with Adventure International and look at all the options available to us e.g. Easter holidays, May half term or going as two smaller groups. Not going is the very last option we will look at.

Will I get my money back if I decide not to send my child?

As a school we abide by the payment schedule to Adventure International, we normally don't hold funds long before making payments to AI. However, we have made no payments since early March and will now not do so until we confirm the visit will go ahead. The terms and conditions of Adventure International re payments were all shared with families at the time deposits were made. (Please see attached). They give a clear outline of the cancellation policy and the circumstances when payments can be refunded.

I hope I have provided some reassurance to you regarding this visit and the reasons that we as a school are keen to plan for it now and attend in September. Whilst I know it is hard to even consider this visit during this difficult time, I want to give the children the option of a normal start to year 6 after this unprecedented end to year 5.

I hope you are able to complete the google form and give the children the option of going in September.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Lockey
Executive Headteacher

