

Moorside Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Roger Shone

Deputy Headteacher: Mr Jonathan Whitwell

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25th September 2020

Dear Parents

Educational Visits and Residentials

At this time of year, we would usually be mapping out our offer of residential and day-visits to enhance and support learning throughout school. These visits are the highlight of our curriculum and something that, as a school, we pride ourselves on, both in terms of the range and quality of the experiences we offer.

This year, however, we are working in a very uncertain climate and must adhere to legislation and advice with regard to taking children out of school. With this in mind, we are currently looking at our provision and what would be feasible. We are also very aware that legislation and advice is likely to change as the year goes on and that any decisions to run particular visits might have to change at very short notice.

In a typical year, we collect money to pay for visits in two ways:

- Smaller amounts of money (usually for day visits) as a one-off payment to secure a place on the visit
- Installments, usually monthly, following a deposit for residential visits

This year, however, we are going to have to change how we book and pay for visits. This will reflect the short timescales that we will be working within and the uncertainty of future bookings. For this academic year, we will be asking parents to pay the full cost of all visits – both day visits and residential visits – at the time of booking. We know this isn't ideal, but as I'm sure you will understand, school must pay for places on visits by given deadlines and we are not in a position to be flexible; it is the same as booking and paying for a holiday. For families in financial difficulty, we always offer the chance to talk through the situation – in confidence – with Mrs Worswick, our School Business Manager; an appointment must always be made before the deadline for booking closes.

Booking a place on visits will follow the usual format, so please look out for letters and consent forms on ParentApp.

As it currently stands, the following visits are *provisionally* booked, but we are not asking for payment until we have a clearer idea of whether they will actually run. We would suggest that you put some money away each month if you would like your child to attend these visits as we will be asking for the full cost of the visit when you make a booking and will be unable to accept a booking without payment.

- Year 6 residential visit to Hawse End (provisional dates March 2021) – expected cost: £360
- Year 4 residential visit to Grizedale Forest (provisional dates May 2021) – expected cost: £85
- Year 4 / 5 / 6 France residential visit (provisional dates June 2021) * – expected cost: £365
*Children with a confirmed place for the cancelled 2020 trip have been automatically assigned a place on the 2021 trip.
- Year 5 residential visit to York (provisional dates June 2021) – expected cost: £160

Sadly, we are unable to run Year 1's residential visit to Malham Tarn this year, which would usually take place in early December.

We will be looking for other ways to enhance our curriculum in these bizarre times to ensure all our children get the very best learning opportunities, should our usual visits be unviable.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Whitwell
Deputy Headteacher / Educational Visits Coordinator