


Mrs M Lewis – Executive Headteacher

Mrs K Law – Head of School

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Chilton Lane

Ramsgate

Kent

CT11 0LQ

Tel: 01843 597695

Tuesday 12th October 2021,

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have booked a residential trip for Year 6 children to Swattenden Centre (just outside of Cranbrook) for Monday 4th to Friday 8th July 2022.

Along with this letter, I have emailed a copy of the presentation we usually give to parents which gives you further information about the trip (we can't hold a meeting this year as we are still avoiding 'mass gatherings'). Please also find an outline of how our residential will work below:

- Swattenden is an outdoor and adventurous activity centre and is owned and run by Kent Local Authority
- We stay in a building called the Mansion House and children sleep in single sex bedrooms. School staff sleep in the same building in separate rooms next door to the children's rooms. Bathrooms are also single sex and are on the same floor as bedrooms (staff have separate bathrooms)
- Children can choose who they would and wouldn't like to share a room with and we will do our best to meet everyone's preferences but these cannot be guaranteed
- Days at Swattenden are filled with outdoor adventurous activities such as archery, high ropes courses and wall climbing. Children complete these in groups, accompanied by school staff and the activities are led by specialist instructors. Everything is carefully risk assessed and safety is the instructors' first priority.
- The centre also provide three meals a day and there is choice at each meal. Dietary needs can be catered for
- There are also evening activities – two provided by Swattenden staff and two by Chilton staff (one of these will be a fancy dress party on the final night)
- On the Friday (8th July) the children have one last activity before having lunch and then packing up before the journey home (they usually arrive at school at approx. 4pm)

Why we think every child should go to Swattenden!

- The week is brilliant for building self-confidence and self-esteem and for children to find out exactly what they are capable of
- It will be one of the most memorable weeks of their whole experience at Chilton
- It build independence and resilience – essential skills for their transition to secondary school
- They will miss you but they will manage being away from you!
- The staff that will accompany the children are experienced in residential trips and know how to look after and best support the children

Our normal behaviour rules and procedures will apply to the trip. Poor behaviour choices will be taken seriously and children will be sent home if it deemed necessary. We do not allow mobile phones or any electronic devices to be taken to Swattenden. Firstly, there is nowhere to keep them securely. Most importantly, fundamental to this trip is building social and communication skills and devices become a hindrance to that. This does mean that children won't be in contact with you for the week. Staff will be able to communicate with you if they need to and we will keep you up to date with social media posts and text messages.

'One Childhood One Chance'

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The cost of the trip is £290. This includes the coach travel, all activities and instructors, food, drink (and snacks) and accommodation.

Please do have a look at the presentation that has been sent alongside this letter and please do speak to either myself or Year 6 staff with any other queries or questions.

To book a place on the trip, we are asking for a £50 deposit to be paid **by Friday 3rd December** (payable on School Money as 'Swattenden Deposit'). Please could you also complete the consent form which is available through this link:

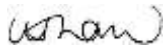
[Swattenden Consent Electronic Form](#)

After the initial £50 deposit, the balance can be paid in instalments. This is our suggested timetable for payments:

- Friday 7th January - £60
- Friday 4th February - £60
- Friday 4th March - £60
- Friday 1st April - £60

You can of course, pay smaller amounts more frequently or larger amounts less frequently. I also do not want the cost of the trip to be a barrier to any child attending so if the cost causes you concern, please get in touch with me.

Yours Sincerely



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