



### Aire View Site

Elliott Street, Silsden, Keighley,  
West Yorkshire BD20 0AW  
T: 01535 653 290

### Hothfield Site

Hothfield Street, Silsden, Keighley,  
West Yorkshire BD20 0BB  
T: 01535 210 666



17th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 5 children,

### **Year 6 Residential Visit – September/October 2020**

Although we are still in the Spring term and school is currently not operational, plans are already being made for the Year 6 residential in the Autumn. I am very pleased to tell you that we have booked Buckden House Outdoor Activity Centre in the Yorkshire Dales for two full weeks and that we will be sending two groups of children (one a week) to each stay for 5 days/4 nights. The trips will take place during the weeks 28<sup>th</sup> September - 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020 and 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

As you may be aware, historically the Year 6 residential has been only for 2.5 days/2 nights. However, I feel that a longer stay not only gives the children more time to enjoy this fantastic outdoor learning experience, but also will help them to further develop their independence as they prepare for life at secondary school. Additionally, I am conscious that, unlike other year groups, this cohort did not have the chance to experience a residential trip in Year 4, and we made a commitment to ensure the Year Six trip would be bigger and better.

Buckden House is an outdoor activity centre run by Bradford Local Authority and the centre provides a range of rewarding activities and challenges within Upper Wharfedale. We have been using the centre for a number of years and it has an excellent reputation for educational programmes which combine safety and security within a residential setting. There is a new house manager at Buckden and after meeting with him, I am very impressed with his ideas and passion for modernising and revamping a child's experience at the Centre.

I have tasked the Buckden House manager and Mr Pickering to come up with an even more comprehensive set of activities for your children so that they get the most out of their visit. Daytime activities are likely to include; caving, ghyll scrambling, walking, archery, ropes course and other team building challenges. For the first time there will be a canoeing activity as well.

Residential courses organised by the school form part of the National Curriculum. Although they remain optional, I would strongly recommend that all parents make every effort to send their children. These experiences live long in the memory. I'm sure that parents will recall their own such experiences from when they were at school.

Pupils benefit enormously from taking part in the visit. As well as being given the opportunity to participate in the adventurous outdoor activities, they will develop their independence, decision making, thinking skills and social interaction. This acts as an essential foundation for further learning and development across the rest of Year 6 and beyond. These trip also give pupils the opportunity to excel in areas that normally are not accessible to them in the classroom. I hope for a full uptake of the places on offer.



### Aire View Site

Elliott Street, Silsden, Keighley,  
West Yorkshire BD20 0AW  
T: 01535 653 290

### Hothfield Site

Hothfield Street, Silsden, Keighley,  
West Yorkshire BD20 0BB  
T: 01535 210 666



The cost of the residential visit will be £270 per child and includes return travel by coach, full board accommodation, hire of equipment and a full programme of activities with qualified instructors. To confirm a place for your child, an initial non-refundable deposit of £50 per pupil will be required by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020. All payments for the trip should be made online through ParentPay. I am writing to you earlier than in previous years to allow a longer period for you to make payments before the outstanding balance is due on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The cost for the 2-night trip last year was £154 so I believe that the additional cost represents excellent value for money considering the extra experiences the children will enjoy.

I do not want the payment to be a barrier to any child attending so please contact me in confidence if cost is a challenge, and we will work out how to enable your child to take part. Pupils who qualify for Free School Meals will be funded through a special funding allocation and we will be contacting the parents of these children to discuss how this works.

An open evening to find out more about the visit normally would take place. However, this is not possible at the moment. We will be looking at how we can possibly do this either online or once we are back to school in the future. In the meantime, to help us plan for the trip and gauge possible numbers, please let us know via PING reply if you are wishing to send your child/children on the trip by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020. We will then open up ParentPay so you are able to make an initial deposit by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Yours faithfully,

K.S.Russell  
Headteacher