

Shobnall Primary School



Dear Parents,

I am writing to you to share with you all some very exciting news. It is with great excitement that I can finally announce the changes to the school's annual residential plans which usually include just our Year 6 pupils. From October 2017, the school will be moving away from using the Kingswood Centre, Staffordshire on an annual basis and we will be taking the pupils in the Years 5 and 6 classes to the Kingswood Centre in Normandy, France!

Why the change?

Some of you who have older children will know that the cost of taking the children on a week - long residential trip locally. The fact is that parents of our current Year 6 class are paying £160 for the week. This price is subsidised due to our loyalty to the centre but based on estimates, the following year, when your children will be in Years 5 and 6, the cost will be around £180 for the week. Whilst the Staffordshire Centre is fabulous, I am looking at ways in which we can further provide opportunities and experiences that many of our children have never had.

The current curriculum requires pupils to learn a modern foreign language and as a school, we have always chosen French. The opportunity of visiting France for the week will provide a real purpose to the curriculum and the learning of the children. Teachers will be planning and teaching French and the children will be able to put this into practice abroad.

What will the children's experience be like?

This week is not focused on high adrenalin activities such as the zip-wire and quad bike riding. In fact, most of the local secondary schools offer this to their pupils in Year 7. We get to choose the week's experiences (which of course we have not done so as of yet as it is a long way off) but probable experiences include: visiting the Somme battlefield, a day trip to the beautiful city of Rouen, visiting some of the D-Day landing beaches, Mont Saint Michel as well as rock pool studies and a local market town where the children will be expected to communicate almost exclusively in French!

Costings

Whilst many of you will no doubt be excited (and possibly apprehensive) about this trip, you will all be concerned about the probable cost of which I can fully understand. As I mentioned before, if we were to take the children locally, the cost would be around £180 for the week. The cost for the French excursion includes all travel costs, accommodation, insurance, food and activities and currently stands at £365 per pupil. HOWEVER, I have no intention of charging parents this figure! I have already spoken to our new PFA, who were delighted with the idea, and they have agreed to help subsidise the cost of this trip. This of course requires significant and proactive fund-raising and I have every confidence in our new PFA with this initiative. It is therefore my aim to run this trip at a cost of between



£250 and £270 per child, reducing the cost by around £100 per child which both the school and PFA will cover.

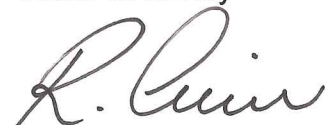
In addition to this, I believe that the best and easiest way to support our parents, in addition to the reduction in cost is to set up a ParentPay account next month, in October. This will be a way that you can put money into the account on a monthly basis over the year so that there will be no need to pay the full amount all in one go (unless you wish to!)

I fully recognise and understand that many, if not all of you will have many questions and queries over this new and exciting venture and I am always happy to meet regarding the trip. I am currently awaiting confirmation from Kingswood, France, of a teacher trip during this term where I will be able to learn more and share with you the experiences of the members of staff who visited.

On a final note, it is my intention of running this trip bi-annually. Pupils who will be in Year 5 next year will of course visit France but when they move into Year 6 in the Autumn term of 2018, the plan will be to take these children on a two day residential locally with a focus on the more physical activities like those currently experienced by our Year 6 pupils and of course considerably cheaper in price.

I hope you share the same excitement as we have at school and do speak to me regarding any questions which I will try to answer at this early stage.

Yours sincerely



Mr. R. Cruise

Headteacher.