

21st October 2021

Dear Parents



YEAR 2 - KINGSWOOD RESIDENTIAL
WEDNESDAY 6th July – FRIDAY 8th July 2022

At the end of the year all of our Year 2 children have the opportunity to take part in a three day, two night residential trip. We were so lucky that after the trip in 2020 was cancelled that despite some Covid restrictions still being in place last summer the residential was able to go ahead as planned. I know that these are difficult times and that can make it hard to make the decision now about your child taking part in something next Summer but we have to book and pay a deposit to secure the number of places we require now otherwise we will lose them. If you want your child to take part in the residential then we need to have your deposit by **Friday 12th November**. We will not be able to add children onto the trip next Summer as there will be no more places available. However please be reassured that if the residential was not able to go ahead next summer then you would get a full refund.

We usually have a parents meeting at this time of the year where I talk to you about the residential and answer any questions parents have. I have put together the attached information that will hopefully answer many of your questions. If you do have any additional questions to ask please feel free to send me a message via email on k.williams@violetway.org and I will answer them.

This residential is an amazing opportunity and experience for the children and as a staff we love taking them. The children get the opportunity to experience a wide range of activities which they would not normally do. They thrive from the experience and their confidence and independence improves too. Although they seem young at the start of Year 2 for it they really are ready for it by the end of the year. If you speak to parents who have had children at our school I'm sure that they will tell you how much their children really enjoyed the experience.

We are very lucky that the PTA have kindly agreed to provide a donation towards the final cost of the trip which will bring the total cost down to **£200.00**. A **£65.00** deposit needs to be paid for by **Friday 12th November via ParentPay** to reserve a place, you will see Kingswood as a Payment Item option so please ensure that you only pay the deposit against this item. The remainder can be paid in instalments, also payable via ParentPay.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Kate Williams
Deputy Headteacher

YEAR 2 - KINGSWOOD RESIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Kingswood is an outdoor education centre based in Albrighton just outside Wolverhampton and takes about an hour to get there by coach. The centre has a website that shows what the site looks like and some of the activities which you can do there. The website is below so you can look at it with your child and discuss the trip.

<https://www.kingswood.co.uk/activity-centres/staffordshire/>

When we leave school on the Wednesday morning we have some planned activities before arriving at Kingswood. We visit RAF Cosford and have a picnic lunch. After a picnic lunch the children arrive at Kingswood on the Wednesday afternoon. At Kingswood they get a tour around the site to see the facilities and then get taken to their dormitories to leave their belongings. The dormitories are on the ground floor and the first floor. Girls are on one floor and boys are on the other. The dormitories have about 8 – 10 children in each and there are teacher rooms at the end of both corridors so we are always close by to the children. There are other schools there at the same time as us but those children will be in separate dormitories to our children. In the dormitories doors are open for use of bathrooms, but all external doors are locked and windows can only be opened a very short way. Children are allowed to choose some of their roommates, unless there are known personality clashes!

The children start activities on the first afternoon and over the 3 days will complete 8 activities in total.

Past favourites have been: zip wire, fencing, climbing wall, archery and abseiling. Activities are pretty non-stop throughout the day, ending at about 7.30pm, slightly later on the Wednesday as we have campfire night. There may be some activities that your children are unsure of doing or may not want to do. We encourage everyone to have a go but they would never be forced if they are unsure.

The children are well fed throughout the trip and food is provided for the whole trip from the packed lunch on the Wednesday to breakfast, lunch, dinner and marshmallows for the campfire whilst at Kingswood. Meals at Kingswood are extremely good with lots of choice. We ask that you do not send any extra food or sweets with the children as these often get eaten in the dormitories when the children are in there at night and lead to the children feeling sick and getting upset. We also have a form for dietary information. We cater for fussy eaters, allergies, vegetarians and cultural preferences

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

My child has a medical need can they still go on the residential?

All parents need to complete a medical form; a designated member of staff will take care of any ongoing medicines during the visit. There is a medical centre at the site and staff tending to this 24 hours a day. You would be contacted if your child took ill during the stay. We are aware that some children are not completely dry at night at this age. Again this is not a problem, we will ask you to provide some mattress pads that we can put on your child's bed.

My child likes to sleep with a teddy or a comforter can they bring that with them?

Yes of course! Children can bring their favourite teddy with them to give them comfort at night. We try to make the bedtime routine as homely as possible and read stories to the children before they go to sleep. We ask for no other toys to be brought.

Can they bring mobile phones with them?

No phones are allowed on the trip. We will keep in touch with you to let you know how the children are. We usually do this by text but we will now be able to keep in contact with you and let you know that we have arrived safely through Marvellous me too.

Can they bring money with them?

Yes there is a shop at Kingswood. We ask that children do not bring more than £5 and have it in coins if possible also in a purse or wallet with their name on. All purses and wallets are collected from the children at school on the Wednesday morning and looked after until they visit the shop.

Which staff will be going on the trip with the children?

This will be confirmed closer to the time with further Kingswood staff allocated to groups on arrival. They receive much one-to-one support with activities and pupil/adult ratio is 1 to 6 most of the time. We try to take as many of the Year 2 staff with us as possible so the children are with adults they are familiar with.

Can my child choose friends to share the dormitory with?

Yes. Before going to Kingswood I will gather together all the children who are going and they can choose 2/3 friends to share a room with. We don't put whole classes together but will put groups of 2/3 in the same room. The children also are with groups of friends to complete the activities throughout the day but they will also be mixed boys and girls and across the three classes.

This is just a brief overview of the residential and questions that are frequently asked by parents. If you have a question that I have not answered please do not hesitate to contact me by email k.williams@violetway.org, email the office office@violetway.org or speak to me on the gate at the start or end of the school day.