

Y3 Residential Trip

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your feedback on the proposed residential trip for Y3 next summer. As a result of this feedback and the support shown for the trip, I am pleased to confirm that we have now made a booking.

When? Wednesday 4th until Friday 6th July 2018.
Where? The Wilderness Centre, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire.
Cost? £160 per child.

We have been very impressed with everything that the centre has offered over the last two years. The staff, food and activities are all superb and the site is perfect for this age group. For many of them it will be their first experience away from home overnight. Staff are very used to this and will support the children to get the most out of the experience. Whilst the children have only just started Y3 and are adjusting to KS2, remember that this trip is right at the end of the year by which time they will have grown in confidence and independence.

We will take part in activities such as bushcraft, abseiling, climbing, archery and orienteering. The food is great with cereal, toast and cooked breakfast each morning; sandwiches for lunch and a two-course evening meal. There is a big focus on independence with the children making their own sandwiches for lunch each day.

Boys' and girls' rooms are on separate wings of the building and the rooms can sleep 4, 6 or 8 children in bunk beds.

More details about the centre can be found on their website
www.wilderness-centre.co.uk.

You will notice that the cost of the trip has increased compared to last year. The centre only re-opened two years ago after a revamp and since then has gone on to be awarded the Adventure Mark, Learning Outside the Classroom and the AHOEC Gold Standard Award. Having seen first-hand what they offer and just how much each and every child gets out of the trip, as staff we are confident that it still represents good value for money.

We also recognise that £160 is a significant financial outgoing and hope that by giving families 8 months' notice before final payment is due it will allow sufficient time to budget.

To secure a place on this trip, we will need a completed electronic permission form (on the website/app) along with a *non-refundable* deposit of £40 by Friday 20th October 2017 **at the latest**.

The remaining £120 will be due by Friday 25th May 2018. ***Please note that these deadlines cannot be extended as we have to pay The Wilderness Centre in installments shortly after these dates.***

After the deposit is paid on/by 20 October, there are then 24 school weeks until the balance is due –£5 per week.

Installments can be paid as and when you like by cash or cheque to the school office. We will provide a payment card so that you can keep a track of the decreasing balance. Of course, you are very welcome to pay for the whole trip as one payment if you prefer.

Please make any cheques payable to **Gloucestershire County Council** (not *Ashchurch Primary School*) or alternatively ensure that cash is placed in an envelope with your child's name and 'Wilderness Centre' clearly marked on it. All payments need to be made via the school office.

If you have any questions about this trip, please do not hesitate to speak to Mr Rickaby.

Kind regards,

Mr Rickaby