

18th October 2019

Dear Parents

Year 4/5 Residential Visit - St. Michaels' Environmental Educational Centre, Hathersage

Wednesday 15th January - Friday 17th January 2020

An exciting opportunity has arisen for the children of Year 4 and 5 to take part in a fun, educational based residential visit to St. Michaels' Environmental Education Centre in Hathersage.

This trip is an extremely valuable life experience. The children will thoroughly enjoy their time and come away with memories that will stay with them forever. The children learn a tremendous amount about themselves; they will develop confidence, determination, self-esteem, trust and collaborative skills. For some, it will be the first time away from home without other family members. Year 4 and 5 is an ideal time for this type of school visit as the children are supported by friends and staff that they have known for some time.

The site and accommodation

St Michael's Environmental Education Centre is based in the centre of Hathersage, at the heart of the Peak District and caters for children of primary school age. Hathersage lies on the River Derwent and a network of footpaths radiating from the village make the surrounding landscape of wood, moorland, streams and rivers easily accessible. Hathersage is an ideal location, not too far away from Doncaster, but far enough to feel 'away from home'.

The trip will run for four days with three nights sleeping in indoor accommodation in dormitories on location at St Michael's. The children sleep in bunk-beds, with bedding provided. The boys and girls will have separate dormitories, with adjacent rooms for adults. There are also separate bathrooms, with toilets, sinks and showers.

All meals are eaten together in a dining room within the accommodation. They are provided by the centre, so are produced by qualified staff and are hot, nutritious and enjoyable. A 'packed-lunch' style meal is provided at lunchtime, except for the first day (when the children need to bring their own packed lunch).

Activities

The children are encouraged to have a go at all activities but are never forced to participate in something with which they are not comfortable.

The children will be engaging in some fantastic outdoor activities which support the Geography, Numeracy and Science curriculum. Activities include orienteering (using map reading and problem solving skills as a team), local walks including the study of local history, and a local village study (beginning to look at why there are so many shops for so few houses and the impact of tourism on the local environment). We will also take part in some Art work and den building using natural materials.

Equipment

All bedding is provided by St Michael's, but children will be responsible for making up their beds when we arrive at the centre and taking bedding off at the end of our stay.

A full kit list will be issued to you a little bit nearer the visit. Most equipment required can be borrowed from the Centre (such as walking boots, wellies, waterproofs, rucksacks, etc) so do not worry about having to go out and buy them!

Costing

The cost of the visit will be £103 to include transport, accommodation, food and all activities. A deposit of £25 is needed to be paid by Friday 15th November 2019. Please can all parents pay through ParentPay or speak to Mrs Mitchell if you require a barcode letter for PayPoint. There is the option of paying for the trip in one whole payment or in instalments, whichever suites your circumstances. Parental consent can also be given through ParentPay.

Should anyone need further convincing, please come and speak to Mr Birch Thank

you for your support.

MR J BIRCH