

*Ashdon Primary School*

*Ashdon*

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*Headteacher: Mr. S. Rance*

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6th May 2021

**2021/22 Class 3 residential**

Dear parents and carers,

I am sure you, like me, are looking forward to returning to a greater level of normality over the coming months. From May 17th, the Government is allowing residentials for schools to resume, so I want to involve you in our decision on how best to proceed with taking Class 3 on a residential next academic year.

Previously, we have used the Aylmerton Field Study Centre to provide the activities that we have undertaken, whilst using a separate venue, Patteson Lodge, to provide sleeping and eating facilities. Just before the first national lockdown in March 2020, Patteson Lodge contacted our school to say they were no longer working together with Aylmerton Field Study Centre and this remains the case to this day. Patteson Lodge is owned by the Girl Guides and have no plans at this current time to be used for residential stays.

Therefore, we could use the Aylmerton Field Study Centre as our base, which we would share with at least one other school, or we need to consider other options from different providers (some of which will also be on a shared site with other schools).

I am also aware that parents might now be facing additional financial pressures due to the effects that Covid may have placed on their workplace, e.g. furloughed or redundancy. I strongly believe, that the total cost of any residential visit should consider the affordability for families, so that all can attend. To achieve this, it may mean changing provider, the time of year the visit takes place, the kind of activities offered and/or going for a shorter period of time to reduce costs.

I have made some initial enquires with a range of residential providers and over the page I have tried to give an overview of what each place has to offer. However, the choices are so numerous for each venue, it is impossible to reflect all different combinations activities and/or variations in price. The prices quoted do not include the transport costs to/from each venue. I have selected 4 venues that are in the same area of Norfolk that we have historically visited. However, we may choose to go to another venue in another part of the country, depending on how parents respond to the questions on page 3.

I would be very grateful if you could look over the information supplied and respond to the questions. This will help Mrs Lunn and I make our decision as to the best possible option. Please return your responses to the school office by **Monday 17th May**.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Rance

Headteacher

**Possible residential venues for 2021-22**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name of venue | **Aylmerton Field Study Centre** | **Horstead Centre** | **Hautbois Activity Centre** | **Kingswood** |
| Shared site? (with other schools) | Yes | No | Yes (not accommodation) | Yes |
| Types of activities offered. | *Science* – Trip on boat to visit the seals. *Geography* – Looking at coastal erosion, visits to Norfolk beaches.*Team building* – e.g. building a shelter, map reading.*Outdoor adventurous* - e.g. high ropes. | *Outdoor adventurous* - e.g. climbing, archery and canoeing.*Team building* – e.g. raft building.*Woodland activities* – e.g. bushcraft and night walks. | *Outdoor adventurous* - e.g. climbing, archery, abseiling, zip wire and kayaking.*Team building* – e.g. bridge and raft building.*Woodland activities* – e.g. bushcraft and orienteering.*Science* – pond dipping. | *Outdoor adventurous* - e.g. climbing, archery, abseiling, high ropes and canoeing.*Team building* – e.g. problem solving and raft building.*Woodland activities* – e.g. bushcraft and night walks.*Science* – habitats, e.g. pond dipping. |
| Are evening activities included in the price? | Yes | No – these would cost more if run by the centre staff. | No – these would cost more if run by the centre staff. | Yes |
| Price per person for 5 days (4 nights) – note **this does not include any additional cost for transport** to/from venue. Please also note, venues sometimes charge more/less, depending on the time of year.We can reduce these costs by staying less nights at a venue, but the children will get to do less activities. | Approx £380 – they charge for a minimum of 25 guests, regardless of how small our class is, so it means we pay more per person. | Approx £280, but it depends on the number and type of activities undertaken each day, as their prices varies. | Approx £280 | Approx £330 but will vary according to time of year. |
| If cancelled, is the trip refundable? – note that if the venue reschedules, then some of the pupils may miss out if they have already left the school (if the residential can’t take place in the same academic year). | No, but they would reschedule the residential for later. | All of the fee is due if cancelled within 6 weeks of the visit, but they would prefer to reschedule the residential. | Full refund if trip is cancelled due to national lockdown but they would reschedule the residential for later. | No, but they would reschedule the residential for later. |

Please answer the following questions. Circle **one** option per question:

1. What would be the maximum expense you would be willing to pay for your child’s residential? (Note: Very low-income families whose children are in receipt of Pupil Premium will have the cost of the residential covered for them)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Less than £100 | £100 - £150 | £150 - £200 | £200 - £250 | More than £250 |

1. Based on your answer to question 1, which of the following school terms do you feel that you would be able to pay the full amount by?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Half term of Autumn term 2021 | Half term of spring term 2022 | Half term of summer term 2022 |

1. The venue for the residential may provide lodging for more than one school at a time, depending on its size. Please indicate which of the following statements best reflects your views. (Most residential sites who take multiple school parties will separate them, e.g. they have separate wings of a building to sleep in, they don’t mix for the activities.)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I would only find it acceptable that a venue only has Ashdon Primary staying there at the time of the residential. | I would prefer it if Ashdon has exclusive use of a venue, but if the chosen venue has more than one school attending, I am fine with this. | I do not mind if the residential venue has more than one school staying on the site at the same time. |

1. One way to help reduce residential costs is to shorten the length of the stay. Please indicate below which of the length of the residential you would prefer your child to go on, assuming you can afford it. Please remember part of the first and last days are taken up travelling to/from the residential venue and our school.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2 nights (3 days) | 3 nights (4 days) | 4 nights (5 days) |

1. Residential venues can vary widely in what activities they offer children, with some specialising in certain aspects. Indicate which of the following options you would be most interested in your child doing during their residential.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Team building exercises. | Outdoor adventurous activities, e.g. high ropes, rock climbing, and canoeing. | Study of the local environment that is different to Ashdon (science & geography, possibly history). | A blend of all different types of activities. |

1. Based on the information on page 2 of this letter, which residential venue do think would be the best to go to?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Aylmerton Field Study Centre | Horstead Centre | Hautbois Activity Centre | Kingswood | I don’t want my child to go on a residential. |

**Return this page to the school office by Monday May 17th.**