



INSPIRE NURTURE BELIEVE ACHIEVE

*Working **together** to be the **best** that we can be.*

Happiness

Perserverance

Resilience

Kindness

Friendship

Respect

7.10.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Visits and Visitors (including Residential)

Following numerous conversations with Governors, we have made the strategic decision to change the way visits and visitors are organised across the year groups. This decision has been taken to ensure the children receive a broad range of exciting experiences and the costs to families are as manageable as possible.

KS2 Residential / Adventurous Activity

These are without a doubt the memories that every child remembers from their time at primary school. However, they are the hardest to manage both financially and operationally in a small school for a number of reasons. Staff availability to be away from home for the duration of the residential and also the cost of covering partial classes back at school both have a significant impact on how these can be managed.

We are excited to return to these incredible opportunities post Covid-19 and know that the children love these experiences. However, it is also the strategic role of Governors and myself to manage the budget effectively without falling into deficit. Any deficit budget predictions have to be explained to the Local Authority who then ask schools to implement a plan to recover the deficit. This may be a reduction in staffing e.g. cutting Teaching Assistant hours.

Although the cost of a visit or visitor is entirely voluntary, one of the biggest losses of unaccounted school budget is on educational visits where 100% of the cost is not met. We may find that moving forward, more school visits are cancelled in order to avoid an impact on wider school organisation and staffing further down the line as our Teaching Assistants are essential in providing pupil support.

Our proposed Federation plan is to do the following:

Year 5 and Year 6

Curriculum Cycle B (this academic year) - Year 5 and Year 6 – Carlton Lodge – 5 Days (4 nights)

Curriculum Cycle A (2022-23 academic year) – Year 5 and Year 6 – Bewerley Park – 3 Days (2 nights) (dependant on cost – this may be longer or shorter depending on the deal we can get from the provider).

This will alternate so that the children in Class 4 have a different experience each year that they are in that class.

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Year 3 and Year 4

An adventurous Activity Day on school site followed by an overnight stay at on the grounds of one of our schools (potentially camping!). We are in the process of booking this with a provider so watch this space!

The aim is for this to be an annual activity for Year 3 and 4 if interest / cost permits it to be, but the daytime activities will be alternated for Curriculum Cycle A and B so that children can enjoy this twice whilst in those year groups without repeating exactly the same activities. This will have a fundamental basis in Forest Schools activities.

Visits and Visitors linked to Topic and class work

Each class has a Departure Day on the first day of the half term – this signifies the start of the children’s learning journey. This will usually involve some sort of drama / role play and investigation linked to the Big Thinking SMSC Question. The children have really enjoyed these during the last few months.

The teachers may choose to include a visit or visitor on this day – they have worked really well over Teams in recent months!

KS1 and EYFS

We will start to develop the love of outdoor learning and the world around them early on. Children will be outdoors in the EYFS Provision areas all year round, exploring the elements and changes in seasons and completing their challenges.

They will also take part in some whole school ‘**Workshops**’ that are planned e.g. Forest Schools / Den Building etc.

Muddy Puddle Friday will soon be implemented (we are planning these activities and the training for staff as we speak!).

These **Muddy Puddle** activities will form part of playtime on a Friday every week will allow the children to explore the grassy areas in a safe and fun way during the Autumn and Winter months when this area is mostly out of bounds for safety reasons.

Why are visits, visitors and outdoor education so important?

Cultural Capital is something that we consider when planning any aspect of our curriculum. Ofsted refer to it as: *the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said, and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.*

We also talk about Science Capital in our federation, as we aim to inspire the next generation of working in STEM industries (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).

“Science capital incorporates an individual’s science-related resources and their habitus, or attitudes and way of thinking. It can be useful to think of science capital as a bag you carry throughout life that contains all your science related knowledge (what you know), attitudes (what you think), experiences (what you do) and contacts (who you know).”

Our aim is to enrich each of the Topics, weaving cultural and science capital throughout our curriculum. Part of this is by hooking the learning on to the Half Term Values and an SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) question that allows the children to share their own thoughts, ideas and opinions. For example, this half term we are focussing on *Kindness and Creation. Our ‘Big Thinking’ SMSC Question is: How did people in the past show kindness? Challenge: What did they believe about creation?*

Our continued aim is to ensure that children have access to a varied range of enrichment opportunities throughout the curriculum.

We thank you for your understanding and support moving forwards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Zoe Ellis".

Zoe Ellis
Federation Headteacher