

Etching Hill CE Primary Academy

Penk Drive North
Rugeley
Staffordshire
WS15 2XY
Email: office@etchinghillprimary.academy
Telephone: 01889 221864



27th May 2021

Dear Parents/carers,

RE: Year 5 Residential Visit to Laches Wood Outdoor Education Centre – September 2021

The Government has worked very closely with Outdoor Education professionals throughout the Covid-19 situation, and are now satisfied that school trips can begin again. In September, Year 5 children (currently Year 4) will have the opportunity to attend a five day Outdoor Adventurous Activities and Environmental Studies course at Laches Wood Outdoor Education Centre. The course will run from Monday 6th – Friday 10th September 2021 and the accommodation will be dormitories. A coach will pick the children and staff up on Monday 6th at 09.30 and they will be returned to school on the Friday by approximately 15.00 when they can be collected and go straight home.

This will be an excellent opportunity for your child to enjoy an intense week's work on the local environment related to the National Curriculum as well as participation in PE activities such as climbing, BMXing, orienteering and archery which cannot be offered at school.

There have been some major changes in school budgets, in particular in respect of funding for Outdoor Education courses. For Etching Hill, this means that the Local Authority no longer makes a significant contribution to the cost of our residential visits and in addition, we now have to fund the transportation costs to and from the venue. The Governors and I have given a great deal of thought to this matter and have decided that the school will pay for all transport to and from the trip.

Therefore, the cost of this course for children will be £205.00 (or £105.00 for those children who are in receipt of Free School Meals).

We wanted to share this information with you as soon as possible because due to Covid-19, we have been delayed in finalising plans until this week. We are aware that this shortens the time you have to pay, and so we can offer the following timescales for payment to help you spread this out:-

- A minimum of £50 must be paid by the end of July 2021 (or £25 for free school meal children)
- A minimum of a further £50 to be paid before the trip in Sept (or £25 to free school meal children)
- The full total of £205 (or £105 to free school meals) to be paid in full 30th November at the very latest

We have loaded this amount onto your children's ParentPay account and you will be able to pay by installments over the next 6 months as above. Please be assured that should this event not go ahead for any reason connected to Covid-19, we will be able to either move to an alternative date or gain a refund.

Should you require any further information or assistance, then please do not hesitate to contact our school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs M Smith
Headteacher

