

# Ghyllside Primary School

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## Year 6 Expedition Club – Further information

5th February 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are pleased to let you know that your child has successfully secured a place at Expedition Club. Previously we have carried out the children's training for the club on Monday afternoons and evenings, however this has meant that some children have had to miss some sessions because of other commitments. As a result, we are this year trialling trying to get all of the expedition club training completed in school time.

### Key dates and times

#### Monday sessions:

Mon 5 Mar 1.15 – 3.20pm
Mon 26 Mar 9.00am – 3.20pm
Mon 23 April 1.15 – 3.20pm
Mon 30 April 1.15 – 3.20pm
Mon 8 May 2.30 – 3.20pm
Tue 15 May 1.15 – 3.20pm
Mon 5 June 2.00 – 3.20pm
Thu 7 June 1.15 – 3.20pm

**Mountain Day:** Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May

**Expedition:** Sat 9<sup>th</sup> – Mon 11<sup>th</sup> June

### Expectations

In order to come on the mountain day and expedition in May and June, your child will have to demonstrate certain levels of attitude and behaviour at the Monday sessions. This is necessary due to the adventurous nature of the expedition and the need for children to have the appropriate skills and be able to manage risk when in the mountain environment. Expectations in this area have been discussed with the children and will be reinforced regularly at the sessions.

### Equipment for the Monday sessions

The Monday sessions will mostly take place outdoors, and we hope to do this whatever the weather; they will be an excellent opportunity for your child to try out equipment, clothes and footwear prior to the expedition. Here is a list of what your child will need for all the Monday sessions:

- **Walking boots** – should be waterproof, stiff soled with a good tread, supportive at the ankle, and well fitting (with walking socks). If purchasing, explain to the sales assistant that they are to be used for carrying an expedition rucksack on mountainous terrain. All reputable outdoor shops will be able to advise you. We have a few pairs and may be able to lend a pair
- **Walking socks**
- **Base layer top** – 'wicking' fabric such as a thermal top or football shirt (synthetic fabric not cotton) - We can lend if you do not have one
- **Fleece or warm thick top** – 2 might be needed if cold
- **Walking trousers or tracksuit trousers** – not jeans or cotton

- **Waterproof jacket** - We can lend if you do not have one
- **Waterproof trousers** - We can lend if you do not have one
- **Warm hat**
- **Gloves**
- **Rucksack** – to hold all of the above (25 – 50 litre) - We can lend if you do not have one

We are building up a stock of equipment in the hope that the cost of some of the kit needed does not stop children taking part. If any parents have any spare kit to lend or donate, that would be fantastic, just send it in to school with your child. We cannot lend all children equipment so are relying on some people sorting it for their own child. Prior to the first session in March we will lend waterproofs, base layers and rucksacks to those children wishing to borrow.

**Other equipment for the 3 day expedition – a full kit list for the mountain day and expedition will be sent home once the sessions start**

As well as the equipment listed above, your child will need the following for the mountain day and expedition in June:

- 2 additional pairs of walking socks
- 1 additional pair of trousers
- 1 additional warm layer
- sleeping mat
- sleeping bag - We can lend if you do not have one

**Group equipment to be shared (will be co-ordinated at the sessions)**

- Tent – prospective tents to be pitched at the first session on Mon 5th March – **provided**
- Trangia Stove and fuel - **provided**
- Food

A further and definitive kit list for the expedition will be given nearer the time. If you have any questions, or are unsure about equipment, please don't hesitate to contact us to ask for advice.

**Forms to complete**

As I'm sure you can imagine, organising something like this requires a lot of co-ordination and I'm afraid this letter and the forms attached may take some time to complete but we hope that once done, parental support and equipment can be arranged well in advance of the Monday sessions, mountain day in May and expedition in June. The following need to be filled in and returned to school by Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February please:

Permission slip for Monday sessions – attached to this letter (sorry but you will need to complete and return this in addition to the previous one)  
Parental Support sheet – yellow

You have already provided your child's medical information as part of the Edinburgh residential preparation. If anything changes, please contact us in school to update your child's information.

**Voluntary contribution**

We ask for a £40 voluntary contribution to cover the cost of the sessions and campsite on the expedition. Once arrangements for the Expedition are confirmed, we will ask for this payment (around the end of April).

**Permission for the Monday sessions**

As we hope to conduct all the sessions outside, and often outside the school grounds; in Serpentine Woods, Cunswick Scar and Scout Scar, we have included a blanket permission slip below so that we have permission to take your child to these places at the sessions on Mondays. We have outlined the sessions as they are planned on the attached form 'Parental Support Sheet' but we would appreciate the flexibility to take your child to any of these places on any of the dates. We will be back in school for the end of the school day for each session.

Finally, if you have any queries about anything regarding Expedition Club, please don't hesitate to contact one of us at school.

Thank you,

Dan Duxbury

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**Expedition Club - Off site permission for Monday sessions**

I \_\_\_\_\_ parent/carer give permission for my child  
\_\_\_\_\_ to attend Expedition Club sessions, both in school  
and at the off-site locations outlined in the letter attached.