

Ghyllside Primary School

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Derwentwater Visit Final Arrangements: Wednesday 8th – Friday 10th May 2019

Thursday 25th April 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

This letter contains all of the final arrangements for the Derwentwater visit. Please may we ask that if you still owe the remaining balance, could you send it to school **by next Wednesday (1st May) at the absolute latest** as we have had to pay the hostel and there are still a few payments outstanding. The children are very excited, so here's hoping for glorious sunshine! We can now also confirm that the adults accompanying the visit are: Mrs Reedy, Mrs Blackburn, Mr Davies, Mr Duxbury, Mark Jones (Oscar's dad), Mrs Bainbridge, Mrs Crowther and Mrs Longcake. Attached to this letter is also another copy of the kit list if you should need it.

Departure Arrangements

Children come to school at normal time on the Wednesday morning (no need for school uniform) to usual classrooms where we will leave our bags. We will not leave until around 10.00am. All children will need a decent packed lunch with snacks and drinks as our first meal at the hostel will be dinner at 6.30pm. Please do not allow your child to take sweets, fizzy drinks, chocolate or computer games (or anything else that uses headphones) on the coach. It is a 1 hour journey. The children will need a small day rucksack (they can obviously use the same one for the hill walk on Thursday) to carry on the bus away from their main luggage. **Into this day rucksack they should put their waterproof jackets and trousers, a warm spare top, hat and gloves, lunch and all snacks and drinks for the Wednesday, any inhalers** and perhaps sun cream if the weather is hot and sunny. This is very important as the children won't be able to get at their main luggage until we unpack at the hostel in the evening.

Last year, several children did not have these basic items of clothing and the weather was wet and windy – we want the children to be warm and toasty and to enjoy themselves in the outdoors despite the weather! A lack of appropriate clothing in bad weather could possibly spoil not only that child's, but also the whole group's experience, as we may need to change our plans. This year, in the event of a child not having suitable footwear, waterproofs, hat and gloves, we will take the drastic step of contacting parents and asking them to either come and collect their child or bring the missing items up to Keswick for their child. These items do not need to be new and we do have access to some spares in school, which have been very kindly donated over the years as children have grown out of them. Next week will be the final chance to borrow if you don't have these items – send in a written note with your child, specifying what you wish to borrow.

*****On Tuesday 30th April next week we will have a kit check of walking boots/shoes and waterproof jackets in school. This is an essential part of our safety checks prior to leaving so please send your child to school in the footwear and jacket they will have for the forest activities and hill walk.*****

Activities and Clothes

An extra copy of the kit list given out at the information evening and sent home previously is attached to this letter for you. As we are hill walking, scrabbling about in the forest (building shelters and inspecting the local flora at close quarters) and visiting a farm, please send your child with scruffy old clothes for these activities as they are likely to get muddy. As long as they are warm and dry, it does not matter. A black bin liner for wet stuff/dirty washing is essential...as is the name sticker on it.

A final note on walking boots especially: if boots are still fairly new, make your child wear them lots from now until we go to wear and soften them as much as possible. If you think there is a chance that boots could rub, maybe pack some of those Compeed/Second Skin plasters; these make all the difference between a great day out with great memories and an awful time with blisters that spoil their experience. Please do not send your child with new and unworn boots. Again last year, we had a couple of children who had a bit of a miserable time when walking up



Catbells due to horrible blisters caused by unworn boots. As with other kit, if you do not have these items, it may be better to borrow a well-worn pair of boots from friends/other children or school – again just ask if we can help.

Money, Mobile Telephones and Cameras

There is no need for any child to bring any money: we're going for the views and the good old-fashioned outdoor fun. However, if children want to bring a few pounds that is fine (no more than £5), as there is the possibility that we will have a stop at Shepherd's Café in Borrowdale for a drink and ice cream. Children are welcome to bring cameras to capture their memories. These should be clearly labelled with the child's name and are, at all times, the children's responsibility. We suggest that they take the single use variety rather than expensive digital ones. Children should not bring mobile devices or phones, as there is no need. There is a perfectly good landline in the hostel, staff will have mobiles and we will contact you if there is a problem.

Evening Activities

Children may bring a toy or game in their bags to share with the others of an evening or on the coach. Please do not send electronic games as they tend to be worth a lot of money and break easily. We will also take a box of play equipment to play games outside.

Medical Information/Travel Sickness and Inhalers

We will take your child's medical information with us. **In addition to this, if your child requires an inhaler, please ensure that they have it with them with their name clearly written on it and that it is placed in their rucksack on the coach - it's no use in the luggage hold where the main bags are stored for the journey. Current policy is also for a child to have a spare with them as well so please ensure that your child has their inhaler plus a spare if possible.** If your child requires travel sickness medication, please administer it on Wednesday morning prior to travel and provide the correct dose in a clearly marked envelope for staff to administer on Friday before our return journey. The medical forms make no mention of applying plasters to small cuts and grazes. We will assume that this is alright unless you tell us otherwise.

Emergency Contact

In case of emergency and you need to contact your child, the hostel details are as follows:

Barrow House Independent Hostel Derwentwater: **017687 77246**

Food and A Few Extras

The food prepared at the hostel is outstanding and beautifully cooked from scratch using a lot of local produce. There are 3 or 4 choices for evening meals – one of which is always jacket potatoes with something, plenty of breakfast and generous packed lunches. As we will be very active for the 3 days, feel free to pack healthy extras as snacks.

Return Details

We will leave Derwentwater on the Friday at approximately 2pm and aim to **be back in school by about 3.15pm**, depending on the traffic. If we are going to be late, we will contact school and a message will be passed on to the parents waiting.

A Final Word of Thanks...

We would really like to take the opportunity to thank you for supporting us in providing this visit and enabling us to help our children appreciate the truly beautiful nature of their home and to hopefully develop as much passion for the mountain environment as we have.

If you offered to come up Catbells with us on Thursday, you will soon receive a pack outlining final arrangements for this, and we will see you at the hostel from 9.00am.

Many thanks for your continued support, The Year 5 Team



KIT LIST DERWENTWATER 2019

A large part of each day will be spent out on the fells or in the forest. Due to the changeable weather in the Lake District hills, it is possible that you may become cold, hot, wet and/or sunburned all in the same day. Below is a list of things you will need to bring for three days in the outdoors. **REMEMBER: As we said at the meeting, we may be able to lend the items in bold from our Expedition Club store. Nearer the time we will arrange borrowing of this kit. THERE IS NO EXPECTATION THAT YOU BUY THESE ITEMS.**

If you are unsure whether items you have at home are suitable, please send it in with your child and we will check.

*****These items are absolutely essential for your child's safety**

- Wellies or old trainers for wearing in the hostel grounds/playing out in the evenings
- Slippers (optional)
- **Walking boots (well worn in) or very sturdy walking shoes with rugged grip suitable for hill walking on wet grass and rock*****
- **Waterproof coat*****
- **Waterproof trousers*****
- Hat + spare***
- Gloves + spare***
- **Thermal base layer (moisture wicking) if possible - failing this football shirts make good thermal base layers!*****
- Three jumpers/fleeces***
- Three t shirts (long or short sleeve dependent on weather forecast)
- Two pairs trousers (joggers/tracksuit bottoms) suitable for hill walking/forest (jeans not suitable for outdoor activities)
- Set of clothes for evenings (optional)
- Three pairs of thick socks
- Three pairs ordinary socks
- 4 changes of underwear
- Sleepwear, toiletries and towel
- Large black bin liner with name label (to take home gift of wet/muddy clothes)
- Plasters, tissues, toiletries, torch, sun hat, sun cream
- Prescribed medicines to be labelled and handed to staff prior to departure
- Refillable plastic drinks bottle***

Rucksack (day sack variety suitable for hill walking)

