



Billingshurst Primary School
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Tuesday 9th February 2021

To parents and carers of children in Year 6
Blackland Farm Trip 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the national lockdown in January, the future looks uncertain about when schools will reopen and what this will look like. This makes the future of residential trips even more uncertain. Since asking parents to sign up and pay the deposit last term we have had 45 parents do so – far lower than the 70+ who said they would in the survey we undertook beforehand.

I absolutely understand that these are uncertain times and the picture of the COVID situation before Christmas probably meant that many decided not to commit. I also understand how important it is that we protect your money and do not venture into something that could result in a significant financial loss for you or the school. I have been discussing this with Trecko, the company who run the residential, and I am able to reassure you and, I hope, get this trip back on track. We do need more parents to commit to the trip in order to keep the cost as we said it would be and I hope this letter will result in more of you signing up.

We, as a school, do not need to pay the full cost of the trip until 2 weeks before it goes ahead. If it has to be cancelled because of the national situation and COVID-19, we will be able to return all your money to you. This is extremely generous of the company as they are providing the flexibility we need to make this happen, if at all possible. Please, if you have not already done so, pay the deposit and commit your child to a place on the trip. We will then ask you to make the payments with an extended schedule and with all payments made by the end of April. This will allow us time to make a decision depending on the national guidance before confirming the trip will go ahead. Full refunds are only available if the whole trip is cancelled. If you withdraw your child for a different reason you will still have to pay the deposit.

Currently, to make the trip financially viable, we do need more than the 45 we have signed up to the visit. As the financial risk is now significantly reduced, I hope more of you are able to commit. Remember that there is financial help for those in receipt of Free School Meals benefit. If you are concerned about financing the trip, please do contact me for a confidential discussion. This is a wonderful visit that we have been running for the last 10 years and the children really do get so much from it. They will get even more from it after their experience over the last year. Camping in a field with your friends seems a far-away dream but I do think we can make it happen – as long as national guidance supports this when we get nearer the time.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch directly and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Helen Williamson
Headteacher

