



19th September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

As in previous years, Year 6 children will have the opportunity to take part in a residential week at the Bowles Outdoor Activity Centre. The visit to Bowles is an opportunity for the children to develop not only physical skills and academic ability but also to build social skills, awareness of others and is a chance to develop their independence before transferring to secondary education. The trip is a remarkable way to finish the children's time at primary school and creates memories that last a life time. The week will be from **Monday 17th June to Friday 21st June 2019**. The centre is at Eridge Green, near Tunbridge Wells.

Bowles is a non-profit making organisation and unfortunately due to the rising costs of food and fuel they have had to increase their charges this year. Therefore the cost of the trip will be £386 per child. The cost covers:

- 4 nights accommodation in dorm style facilities (approximately 6 children to a room)
- 4 cooked breakfasts, 4 hot lunches, 1 packed lunch (off site), 4 hot dinners
- Approximately 8 hours per day of instructor lead activities including: rock climbing, swimming, canoeing (in a pool), skiing x2 sessions, archery, team building, high and low ropes, a whole day canoeing, kayaking and raft building on a lake, zip wire and orienteering
- All necessary equipment for outdoor activities and bedding (children only need to provide basic day to day clothing, shoes and light-weight gloves and socks for skiing)
- Additional costs for snacks and other necessary supplies

Please note that the cost *does not* include transport to and from the facility. In order to reduce costs we ask that you to take and collect the children at either end of the week. Indeed, many parents have reported that this has been a positive experience for them and they appreciated the opportunity to see the environment for themselves. Please be reassured that if dropping off or collecting your child is a problem we can support you in organising a lift share.

To secure your child's place, please complete the attached form. A non-returnable deposit of £50.00 per pupil is required by the Bowles Centre and this should be forwarded to the school office by **Friday 5th October 2018** [via Tucasi or by cheques payable to St. Mary's Junior School or by cash in a named, sealed envelope]. You will be able to view your payment receipts on the Tucasi system. If you are paying by cash or cheque this will also be recorded on the computer system and the office can advise you at any time of amount paid or owing. If you wish to pay in installments you may make eight further monthly payments of £42 until June. The final payment is due by **Friday 8th June 2018**.

Please note that payments of **any amount** can be added to Tucasi or paid in cash/cheque and if you prefer to pay weekly you are more than welcome to do so. We are happy to create you a personalised payment card if it is helpful. We understand that this trip is costly and encourage you to pay what you can now rather than leaving it all until the last moment! Where children have been at risk of not being able to attend in the past is where parents have not managed to pay little and often. Please bring in what you can and come and see myself, Mrs Lewis or Mrs Woodward if you have any questions or concerns.

There will be a Bowles information meeting nearer the trip on **Monday 20th May at 6:00 pm** for parents. If you have any concerns or queries in the mean time please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see me or get in touch via email.

Yours sincerely,
Miss Krista Greenwood

At St Mary's, everyone is supported, challenged and secure in a caring Christian environment



YEAR 6 BOWLES OUTDOOR CENTRE RESIDENTIAL TRIP

CHILD'S NAME _____ CLASS _____

I want my child to take part in the school trip to the Bowles Centre **YES** **NO**

If your child is going to take part in the trip please tick the appropriate boxes below:

I enclose my deposit of £50.00, which I understand is non-returnable, unless the visit is cancelled.

I have made an online payment of £50, which I understand is non-returnable, unless the visit is cancelled.

I would like my child to take part in the visit and plan to pay the deposit before the deadline or to speak to Mrs Lewis or Mrs Woodward about my options before the 5th October 2018.

I would like a payment card in order to keep track of how much I have paid Each week/month.

Signed _____ (parent/guardian)

Please tick as appropriate, and return this slip to the class teacher as soon as possible.

FINAL DATE FOR REPLIES – FRIDAY 5th October 2018

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