



Friday 8th September

Year 6 Residential Trip to Bowles

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 at Eridge Green, near Tunbridge Wells. 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 lifetime.

This year the Bowles residential week will be from **Monday 10th June 2024 to Friday 13th June 2024.**

Bowles is a non-profit making organisation that supports thousands of young people from all backgrounds to take part in outdoor education courses and activities all aimed at helping young people to grow and to develop in a beautiful, adventurous and challenging, yet safe environment. Bowles supports hundreds of schools and youth groups to help their young people get the best experiences possible – outcomes of the visit include improved self-confidence, resilience, physical and mental health, friendship and fun.

Included in the experience:

- 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 led activities including: rock climbing, swimming, canoeing (in a pool), two sessions of skiing, archery, team building, team ropes, a whole day canoeing, kayaking and raft building on a lake, orienteering and rock scrambling.
- 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)

Due to its non-profit making status, the Bowles Rocks Trust provide all of this for a very reasonable **£466 per child**. 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-refundable** deposit of **£80.00 per pupil** is required by Bowles and this should be forwarded to the school office by **Friday 13th October 2023**.

Payment can be made via Scopay (our preferred method), or by cheque or cash given into the school office. If you pay by cash or cheque, you will be able to view your payment receipts on the Scopay system. Please note that payments of **any amount** can be added to Scopay or paid in cash/cheque and if you prefer to pay weekly you are more than welcome to do so.

If you wish to pay in instalments, we recommend making **eight further monthly payments of £48.25** until June.

The final payment is due by **1st June 2024**.

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We are happy to create you a personalised payment card if it is helpful. We understand that this trip is costly but believe all children benefit greatly from this experience. Please speak with Mr Heyburn or email bursar@stmarysprimary.org now if you have any questions or concerns regarding payments rather than leaving it all until the last moment!

There will be a Bowles information meeting nearer the trip on **Monday 20th May 2024 at 6:00 pm** for parents/carers. If you have any concerns or queries in the meantime please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see me or get in touch via email.

Yours sincerely,
Mr C Heyburn
Year 6 Leader
c.heyburn@stmarysprimary.org

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YEAR 6 BOWLES OUTDOOR CENTRE RESIDENTIAL TRIP

CHILD'S NAME _____ CLASS _____

I give permission for 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 £80.00, which I understand is **non-refundable**, unless the visit is cancelled.

I have made an online payment of £80, which I understand is **non-refundable**, unless the visit is cancelled.

I wish to discuss a trip payment plan for my child.

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

Signed: _____ (parent/guardian)

Date: _____

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

FINAL DATE FOR REPLIES – FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2023

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