



WHITMORE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Halford Lane
Coventry CV6 2HG

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 1

We would like to inform you of the upcoming trips and educational visitors this academic year for our year group.

As a school we believe in a broad, balanced curriculum and we value the quality first hand experiences that our chosen trips provide for children. We strongly believe that they enhance pupil learning by providing opportunities and experiences that we could not offer within school. The trips form an integral part of the learning that takes place in the classroom prior to and following the trip.

Across the year, we consider the balance of cost for parents/carers. In Year 1, we have two trips that are extremely beneficial to children's learning and have been selected to engage children with the curriculum.

When	Where	About the trip	Approximate Cost Breakdown
Spring Term 1	St Johns Museum	<p>We have visited St Johns Museum for several years and the children have found it to be beneficial to their learning experiences. Prior to this, we have researched other similar venues but have always found this to be the most valuable as children are given the opportunity to have three child friendly sessions led by experts. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to investigate the life and times of Victorian people. This is because we are learning about the Victorians in our History topic. Children will have three workshops:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Explore houses in Victorian times to learn about similarities and differences. 2) Have a Victorian school experience where they dress up and carry out drills outside. 3) Laundry – have the opportunity to wash clothes and learn about being maids/helpers during the Victorian times. 	<p>The total trip cost is £14.50</p> <p>£3.50 per child per one hour session = £10.50 per child</p> <p>The transport is £360 altogether. This is £4.00 per child as there are 90 children in the year group.</p>
Summer Term 2	Twycross Zoo	<p>We have taken children to Twycross Zoo for the past four years and the children always have a wonderful day out! This is a reward for their hard work in Year 1 and links to our topic of Animals. We have found it to be extremely beneficial to their learning experiences. During the summer term, children will be learning about animals, their diet, and country of origin and using this information to write a recount, create an information text and produce art work.</p> <p>The children always have a fantastic day but come home very tired after watching different animals being fed and exploring lots of the zoo!</p>	<p>Approximate cost: £14.05.</p> <p>£7.50 for zoo entrance which is a reduced cost for General ticket prices.</p> <p>The transport is £590 altogether. This is £6.55 per child as there are 90 children in the year group.</p>
Approximate total cost of trips for the year			<p>£28.55</p> <p><i>Please note these prices are based on last year's trip and are subject to change.</i></p>

We are trying to support parents by providing better communication including more information in advance, breakdown of costs and providing payment plans to ensure that we can all support the trips going ahead. Please see payment information on the reverse of this letter.

We thank you in anticipation for your support with our trips throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,

Jacqueline McGibney

Head Teacher

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Payment Information

You may recall that we had to cancel a number of educational visits last term due to insufficient funds to make these viable. We would like to ensure that visits planned for this year do go ahead as these are carefully chosen by the staff to provide valuable learning experiences which support each child's learning and form an integral part of the work that takes place in the classroom.

Unfortunately it is not possible for the school to meet the costs of educational visits during school time and we must ask for parent support through voluntary contributions. If voluntary contributions do not meet the cost of the visit then it may not be able to take place. However, no pupil will be excluded because his/her parents cannot afford to contribute at a particular time. **If this is the case, please make an urgent appointment to meet with the Head Teacher in confidence.**

We are now able to offer parents a more flexible way to make payments via the Schoolgateway (www.schoolgateway.com). We will advise you of the **total payment** required per child in order to make the trip viable, the **minimum amount** that you can pay at any one time and the **date that the total payment is due by**. You will then be able to make payments at a frequency to suit you until the balance is cleared. Please note any cash payments would still need to be made in full, **this flexible option is only available for online payments.**

We set a minimum payment amount for each transaction as the school incurs a transaction charge per payment you make, **the school does not pass this charge on to you.** This means that if you make lots of small payments the school incurs greater charges.

Please be aware transaction charges vary depending on the payment method you use:

- **You can help to save the school money by setting your payment method on the Schoolgateway as a bank transfer** (rather than debit or credit card).
- This has the added benefit that once you have set it up you will not have to enter your card details each time you make a transaction.
- **You will need to go to www.schoolgateway.com and login to your account to set this up** – you cannot set the bank transfer method up from the app – once you've set this up on your account you can use bank transfer as a payment method in the app.
- A bank transfer payment costs the school a flat rate of £0.16, by comparison a debit card payment costs on average £0.32, and a credit card payment £0.48.
- At the moment approximately 75% of transactions are made via debit card – if parents set up the bank transfer option instead it would save the school approximately £400 per year.

Please be aware residential trips will still require fixed amount instalments to be paid by set dates in order to secure your child's place. These instalments will be detailed in the letter specific to the trip.

If your child is entitled to free school meals, please contact the school as we may be able to provide some financial support towards the cost of a trip.