



WHITMORE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Halford Lane
Coventry CV6 2HG

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 4

We would like to inform you of the upcoming trips and educational visitors this academic year for our year 4 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 4, we have one expensive trip to the Living Rainforest in Berkshire, which is the only place in England where the children can get a real experience of what the Living Rainforest is actually like.

When	Where	About the trip	Approximate Cost Breakdown
Autumn term	Portals to the Past	In relation to our Humanities topic 'Ancient Egypt' in our Autumn term, we were very lucky to have a historian come in and talk to the children about many different aspects of Ancient Egypt. In the morning session, he had a display of weapons and tools that were used in Ancient Egyptian times and gave a fantastic demonstration of how and when these were used. He then gathered all of the year 4 children in to the hall and used real life artefacts to show them the mummification process. He got the children up to the front to help him. In the afternoon, they had a carousel of 3 different activities in which the children learnt about how they measured in Ancient Egyptian times, the different Gods and popular games during Ancient Egyptian times.	This visitor was free.
Summer Term	Living Rainforest	We have visited The Living Rainforest in previous years and the children have found it to be beneficial to their learning experiences. Prior to this, we have experienced other similar venues but have always found this is to be the most valuable. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to investigate living things and their habitats and to get a real feel for what a rainforest looks, feels and smells like. We are going to be learning about different animals and their habitats in science and also South America and the Living Rainforest in humanities so it is extremely beneficial to all of their connected curriculum learning. Children will be able to explore the rainforest, participate in workshops and enjoy the life animals.	The total trip cost is around £20 The transport is around £1000.00 altogether. This is about £12.50 per child as there are 85 children in the year group. The entrance fee is around £9.00 per child. <i>Please note, these prices are based on last year's trip and are subject to change.</i>
Approximate total cost of trips for the year			£21.50

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.