



WHITMORE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Halford Lane
Coventry CV6 2HG

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 6

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 6, we have one expensive residential trip to Dol-y-Moch, and two less expensive trips. One of these trips is to Coombe Abbey and is for children who do not go to Dol-y-Moch and another is subsidised by the school as a reward for the children for all of their hard work throughout the year to Drayton Manor. We have also arranged for a visitor to come into school to run a workshop for the children which is linked to one of their science topics and there is a small cost for this too.

| When | Where | About the trip/visitor | Approximate Cost Breakdown |
|---|----------------------|---|---|
| Spring Term | Whitmore Park School | On Wednesday 9 th January 2019, a zoologist will be visiting the school to provide a programme of learning activities to enhance your child's scientific understanding and knowledge of the topics we will be studying. The workshop will cover fossil investigations, skeletal examinations, fossil history and will also include a look at some animals and their adaptations. | The total cost is £255. There are 90 children in the year group so this is a cost of £2.84 per child. |
| Spring Term | Whitmore Park School | A group of magistrates will be coming in to talk to the children about the justice system in Britain. This supports our Crime and Punishment unit in Humanities. The children will listen to a presentation about the role of the courts and take part in a mock trial. | Free |
| Summer Term | Coombe Abbey | At Coombe Abbey, the children we will be taking part in a River study. Through hands on activities, pupils will be given the opportunity to learn and gain knowledge about river systems and features. We will investigate the river on site through a variety of activities, including measuring the depth and width, testing the flow rate and sampling the fresh water invertebrate life that can be found with the park. | Approximate cost is £10 per child. |
| Summer Term | Plas Dol-y-Moch | We have been allocated a total of 60 places for Year 6 at Plas Dol-y-Moch Outdoor Education Centre in Snowdonia. The centre provides a variety of outdoor experiences such as mountain walking, climbing, and abseiling, canoeing, kayaking, orienteering and beach studies. We have been to Dol-y-Moch for many years and it is a fantastic opportunity for children to develop their resilience, responsibility and respect for others and the environment as well as take part in a range of outdoor pursuits. | The subsidised cost of the visit is approximately £150, or £50 if your child is eligible for free school meals. The remainder of the cost will be funded through the school budget. |
| Summer Term | Drayton Manor | We take the children to Drayton Manor Theme Park in the Summer Term as a reward for their hard work in the end of Key Stage 2 SATS. We have been on this trip for several years and it is always a wonderful day out. The trip also benefits the children's learning because we use it as a stimulus for their writing. | Approximate cost is £6.00 per child. This is a subsidised cost as the school contributes to this as it is a reward. |
| Approximate total cost of trips for the year (including Dol-y-Moch) | | | £158.84 |
| Approximate total cost of trips for the year (not including Dol-y-Moch) | | | £18.84 <i>Please note these prices are based on last year's trip and are subject to change.</i> |

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

Tel: 024 7633 5697

Email: admin@whitmorepark.org



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.