



WHITMORE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Halford Lane
Coventry CV6 2HG

Friday 29th June 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is with great sadness we have had to cancel a number of trips this term.

Unfortunately, we haven't received enough money to make the trips a viable option.

All planned trips have been carefully chosen by the staff to provide a valuable learning experience which contributes to each child's learning and an integral part of the work that takes place in the classroom following the trip.

On each occasion a trip has been cancelled due to a large proportion of parents/carers not making a voluntary contribution.

We legally have to make it clear to parents/carers that a request for a voluntary contribution is voluntary and that the school is unable financially to meet the shortfall for all trips.

The price of a trip includes the following:- the entrance fee and transports costs. On top of this we often have the costs for workshops. The adult entry is usually free for appropriate ratios. However, the school sometimes pays for additional adults if we need more to attend.

We communicated to parents/carers, as part of transition for the new year, the trips/visitors we had planned for each year group. Teachers have been mindful to ensure that they consider the balance of cost for parents/carers eg. in year 3 they had a visit to – a more expensive trip to Creswell Crags costing £15.00 in the Autumn term and 2 visitor workshops in Spring and Summer term which cost £5.00 each.

We always try to put out trip information allowing a number of weeks to ensure that parent/carers have enough time and prior knowledge to plan for the cost of trips. This time period is considered and we ensure that it covers the end/beginning of a month.

For further information about voluntary contributions please see our Charging and Remissions Policy on the school website under; Our School, Policies and Procedures. If a school requests a voluntary contribution it must make it clear that:

- There is no obligation to contribute
- Pupils will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents/carers have contributed.

Please see the Education Act 1996 sections 449-462 for further information if required.

We do not request voluntary contributions to cover the cost of those parents/carers who do not make a voluntary contribution.

As a school we value the quality first hand experiences that our chosen trips provide and strongly believe it enhances pupil learning.

As a school we will continue to offer trips next academic year. We will improve on our communication by the following:

- Sept'18 – Inform parents/carers of the planned trips/visitor workshops for the forthcoming year with approximate costs.
- Detailed information on why we have chosen the identified venue and the quality of the learning experience.
- A breakdown of what the costs cover.
- Clearer guidance on how the school can support parents/carers financially.

We hope the additional information will be useful and that all pupils will experience these worthwhile learning opportunities.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Jacqueline McGibney
Head Teacher

Tel: 024 7633 5697

Email: admin@whitmorepark.org