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15th November 2017

To the parents of all current Y4 & Y5 children

Dear Parents/Carers

Isle of Wight Residential Visit ~ Monday 17th to Friday 21st SEPTEMBER 2018

At Birdham it is our school policy to extend the children's range of learning activities and experiences as is appropriate to their personal, social and emotional development. As children progress into their final years at primary school, the demands made upon them to become effective, independent & interdependent learners increases significantly. Therefore, with this in mind we operate a residential visit to the Isle of Wight every other year, for all year 5/6 children.

First of all the residential will be in September, just a couple of weeks into term, and therefore this will provide an ideal opportunity for children to 'gel' and develop social and physical skills in a safe environment, that will hopefully benefit the children for the whole year and beyond.

Due to the success of the Residential visit in September 2014 and 2016, we have, once again, booked a week's residential at Kingswood's Outdoor and Adventure Centre in Bembridge, on the Isle of Wight. Their website www.kingswood.co.uk will give a more detailed view of the activities on offer, but suffice to say that we can choose from a very wide range of outdoor pursuits, including zipwire, canoeing, go-karts, indoor climbing and aeroball. All of the activities on offer are led by fully qualified staff, with groups of 12-15 pupils. There will also be one staff member per group from Birdham School in attendance throughout.

The cost for this residential visit will be **approximately £275**, and will be inclusive of all expenses. Whilst I appreciate this is not cheap, it does represent excellent value for money given the high quality experiences that it offers. As always, parents will be given the opportunity to pay in installments and the full amount is not due until July 2018. **At this stage we are only asking parents to pay a deposit of £40. Ideally this should be by the end of term but certainly no later than Friday 12th January 2018, so as to secure our booking arrangements.**

Although part of this includes a voluntary contribution, approx. 90% is the element for board and lodgings at the Kingswood Centre, must be paid by any child attending. Obviously if not enough additional voluntary contributions were made we would need to reconsider the viability of the trip.

This letter only provides the outline details of the residential visit but all the arrangements will be discussed in more detail, at a presentation for families, in the school hall on **Thursday 30th November at 7.00pm**. Please note this date in your diary. It is also a good time to ask questions and gain more information, about this exciting and important educational activity.

Kind regards,

Mr K Byrne
Class Teacher & Trip Leader



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