

FULWELL JUNIOR SCHOOL

Sea Road
Fulwell
Sunderland
SR6 9EE

Tel : 0191 549 3333

Web: www.fulwelljunior.co.uk

E-Mail : Fulwell.junior@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Head Teacher : Mr Peter Speck

Chair of Governors : Mr Michael Hartnack



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1st March 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

Year 5 Visit to Derwent Hill : Expressions of Interest

As parents will know, we try our very best year on year to give our children the fantastic experience of a weeks residential visit to Derwent Hill in Cumbria.

Plans have been derailed a little this year with the pandemic and lockdown closures, but we kept our June booking on standby in the event that restrictions lift. Derwent Hill have been in touch to confirm they are confident if the current vaccination programme continues and the Government can extend the easing of measures that they can welcome a full quota of children to the Centre in the summer term. So we are just awaiting formal confirmation from the Government regarding the re-opening of hospitality venues like this, and it will be all systems go!

To this end, we would like to formally request expressions of interest for our **Year 5** children to take part in the weeks residential that will take place **Monday 21st to Friday 25th June 2021.**

The cost is **£275.00 per pupil**; there are concessions for Free School Meal/Pupil Premium children so if your child currently meets either criteria they would pay a reduced rate based on:

- 25% reduction for Pupil Premium child and/or child of Forces personnel (reducing the cost to £206.25 in full)
- 75% reduction for FSM/Post Adoption children (reducing the cost to £68.75 in full)

The rate includes all board and lodgings, meals, outdoor specialist kit and the invaluable services of the Instructors. Activities include fell walking, kayaking, canoeing, water gorging, abseiling and orienteering; it remains one of the most enjoyable and valuable experiences our children access during their time at FJS, and those children who show real resilience and team work during the weeks visit may get the opportunity to access a more specialised weekend when they move in to Year 6.

This opportunity is open to ALL children irrespective of their personal situation and learning need; Derwent Hill have years of experience in welcoming children with every possible physical and emotional requirement so our SEND children are very much encouraged to engage with the visit - it is such a fantastic opportunity for them.



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Derwent Hill are in the process of collating their re-opening schedule; we appreciate parents may have questions regarding health and safety, and all the issues around social distancing etc. and we will of course share all of this information with you once received. You will also get an opportunity to access our usual presentation to parents regarding the Do's and Don'ts/Kit and equipment etc. but this will be arranged once we have definitive confirmations from the Centre.

Regarding general wellbeing, though, the vast majority of the week is spent out in the great British countryside, amongst some of the finest scenery in the world and plenty of wonderful fresh air, so the risk of contagion is greatly reduced although we appreciate the arrangements within the Centre will need to be effectively managed.

For now though, we would appreciate your potential commitment to the offer of the June week. **If for any reason June does not go ahead, we will simply move the visit into the Autumn term and you would be advised of this change as it is applied.**

We have reserved full and exclusive use of the Centre, which means we will not have to share the facilities with another school, and every child in Year 5 has the opportunity to take part as the numbers are not restricted.

What we would make clear to parents, though, is that any cancellation made AFTER 23rd April would incur the full fee as Derwent Hill would charge us for that place. So please ensure your child is 100% sure they want to go and that you are not committing to something that will incur a charge later on if they change their mind.

Obviously we are limiting the transfer of information between home/school at the moment, so instead of returning this statement, could I please ask parents to **TEXT** the school their preference by either:

Texting : **Derwent Hill – YES** (to confirm your child will definitely be wanting to take part)
OR : **Derwent Hill – NO** (if they do not want to be included in final numbers).

Please confirm your decision by Friday 5th March.

Where parents have committed YES, we would kindly ask for a **deposit payment of *£100.00** to be made as soon as possible to secure your child's place; this should be made on-line via the City of Sunderland website:-

1. Select the 'Pay' option then click 'School Meals & Services'
2. Select Fulwell Junior School from the drop down menu
3. Select 'School Visits' as the option and don't forget to put your child's name/class in the narrative box

Please do not send cheques or cash to school as we have no means of banking funds in the current climate.

Deposit payments should be made **NO LATER than Friday 26th March**. You will then be offered a repayment schedule for the balance of £175.00 which will need to be settled in full by 11th June at the very latest. We will obviously amend this payment schedule if the June week has to be deferred to the Autumn term



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**if your child qualifies for Free School Meals or any other Pupil Premium criteria, and thus will benefit from the reduced cost, please amend the deposit payment accordingly. Further advice is available from the school office on request.*

If anyone has any questions, in the meantime, don't hesitate to get in touch but hopefully we can look forward to a wonderful summer experience in beautiful Lakeland!

Regards.

Joanne Anderson
Business Manager



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