

Monday, 24 April 2017

Dear Parents,

### **School trips and events**

I am writing to you in the light of our recent experiences surrounding school trips. Visits are an excellent learning opportunity, enjoyed by everyone and requested by parents. In fact these outings are some of the most memorable experiences for children. They take a great deal of planning and represent a high level of responsibility, not to mention paperwork, for accompanying staff but are undertaken as they are so worthwhile.

We make every effort to keep trip costs down and the money requested is only the cost of transport and any entry or education experience costs. In fact, if a trip is expensive, the school subsidises the cost. The planned year 3\4 visit to Ufton Court is £15 only after a subsidy of over £350. We also try to give as much notice as possible, allowing families to budget if necessary. For this visit more than six months was given and yet we are still facing a further loss. Schools are prevented by law from insisting on payment for visits in school time or from limiting participation to those who contribute. However losses for individual trips are becoming unsustainable as the number of families not contributing anything increases.

I appreciate families in financial difficulties may not be able to pay the whole amount but any payment helps. Trip letters always advise families with hardship to speak to the school. Please do contact me if you are unable to contribute to a visit and we will endeavour to help. Reminders for payment are sent automatically via Scopay, we are able to amend the system if we are aware of your circumstances.

In a climate of ever shrinking school budgets we cannot make good the losses on every trip. Losses over four departments of five or six trips a year soon mount up and are now beyond the school to cover. I am sure you know that the decision to consider cancelling a trip is not taken lightly but we are now having to give this serious consideration.

Yours sincerely,



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Headteacher



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