

14 May 2021

Dear Parents,

Unfortunately, we are having to make changes to our Year 6 trip to Wales in light of the devolved Government decisions in Wales who have decided NOT to follow England's lifting of restrictions on residential trips from Monday 17th May.

From Monday, schools in England can go on residential trips with safeguards in place which we could have absolutely met, however, the decision by the Welsh government to not follow in the same vein means we have no alternative but to change our plans.

I wanted to come back to you and the children with a viable alternative and, after much searching and exploring various options, I'm pleased that today I'm able to do this. We can still visit Wales, still do our programme of events but will make the following 3 changes:

- 1) We have postponed the visit until June 21st – we are hoping (so are the Hampshire team in Wales!) that this will be when restrictions lift in Wales after England have trialed it!
- 2) We will still be working with the Hampshire Mountain Centre team but they have another school booked on their site that week so we will be staying in beautiful bunkhouses just 5 mins down the road from them. This is similar to the first 2 years when we went to Wales and stayed 'off site'. Anticipating that Welsh safeguards on residential trips will be as stringent as those which come into force on Monday here, we will be occupying 2 bunkhouses which are next to each other. Girls will sleep in 1 with 2 staff and boys in the other with 2 staff. We will still all eat together, play together and do everything else together but need the space the 2 bunkhouses offer because staff are not allowed to share rooms.
- 3) We will be going from Monday 21st June – Thursday 24th June as this is all the availability the bunkhouse has. We have managed to reorganize our programme with the HMC team to still be able to fit all the activities into these days. It will mean that we arrive back later on the Thursday but that feels like a sensible pay off for experiencing all of the same things.

The new bunkhouses are very lovely! In normal times, they are available for hire by the public and you can view them via the link below, however, we will be the first group to stay in them since last summer and it will also enable us to remain in our COVID safe bubble as previously planned.

<https://www.breconbeaconsbunkhouse.co.uk/accommodation-1/>

It does mean that we will be taking £40 off the total for each child because the bunkhouses are a little cheaper. If you haven't paid the whole bill yet, we'll sort out Scopay in the next few days. If you have already settled your bill, we will refund it to you before the half term.

Although not what we had planned, I hope this meets with your approval. It's funny that in situations like this, and in looking for alternatives, it really cements why you do what you do and why we've made the choices that we have. I was unable to find anything similar that would keep us as safe and minimize mixing with the public or sharing accommodation and that provided similarly challenging and life-affirming activities. I have spoken about all of the above with the children today.

We have everything crossed for 21st June but of course, as is the way with COVID, if things have to change, I'll be in touch.

Kind regards,

Emma Jefferies
Headteacher

