



Friday 24th January 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

This year we will be going to Viney Hill for our Year 4 residential. For the last few years we have gone to PGL in Swindon but we have decided to make the switch this year to visit Viney Hill for Year 4 also. The dates for the trip are Monday 2nd November – Wednesday 4th November 2020.

Viney Hill is a superb centre and I know the children will thoroughly enjoy it. We have a strong relationship/ partnership with the staff there and therefore feel we have the capacity to make the experience a really valuable one. Viney Hill is set in the heart of the Forest of Dean, nestled between the River Severn and River Wye. For the duration of our visit we will have exclusive use of the entire site. This provides us with excellent flexibility in terms of the activities we can offer. The centre is well equipped with indoor and outdoor space and is ideally situated for 'outward bound' style activities which will be challenging and fun for the children as well as being great for team building, leadership skills and quiet reflection.

Pupils will participate in a range of activities led by qualified instructors. The activities will include challenging activities such as tunneling or climbing; team building activities such as low ropes and crate stack building and creative learning experiences like bushcraft and rocket science. Viney Hill and Minchinhampton school staff will also lead evening activities and creative arts based activities.

Facilities at the Centre are of a very high standard. Pupils will stay in dormitories of up to 10 in the main house (The Old Vicarage). At all times a member of Minchinhampton staff will be close by. All food (apart from a packed lunch on the day of departure) will be provided by the Centre.

The cost of this trip is £120 and we will be asking for a deposit of £30, to secure your child's place, by Friday 28th February. The remainder of the cost can either be paid in installments or as a lump sum. If you wish to pay in installments, they will be due on the last school day of the following months: £30 April, £30 June and £30 September. We appreciate that trips are an additional expense and we welcome anyone who may have concerns with financing this trip to call in and have a chat with myself. This will of course be confidential.

We also appreciate that for some children spending this amount of time away from home can be the biggest challenge of all and the thought of going can make them very anxious. However please know that children returning from the trip have reliably turned a corner and come back happy and happy to have gone. We will bend over backwards and do whatever it takes to support you and your child if they are worried.

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In order to provide you with further information about Viney Hill and our activities, we will be holding an information evening on Tuesday 4th February at 6:00pm to 7.00pm, in Cobalt class. Here you will be able to see a presentation of photos and we can answer any questions that you might have.

Yours sincerely

Nick Moss

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