

Mrs L Keogh
Headteacher
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Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

We hope your children have enjoyed meeting their new teachers this week. We are looking forward to having them back in September for their final year at Ellingham.

In year 6, we usually arrange a residential school journey. The children look forward to this big adventure and it is a wonderful opportunity for children to experience a whole range of activities and develop their personal and social skills. It is a key event at the end of Year 6 calendar and really helps prepare them for the independence of secondary school. Unfortunately, this year's trip was not able to take place due to Government guidance during the COVID pandemic. Due to the unprofessional and difficult manner of the company we had booked with, we have decided to consider an alternative for this year.

For our new Year 6, we have been looking into options for a residential trip for 4 nights (Monday to Friday) to the Isle of Wight at the beginning of July 2021. The estimated cost which includes coach travel, the ferry, trips out and full board accommodation is £330. The school will be making arrangements to reduce the cost for those children who are eligible for Pupil Premium.

We want to be completely transparent about the potential risk if this trip is not permitted to proceed next summer due to the coronavirus. Currently, the government guidance does not allow school residential trips. We are hoping and anticipating that the guidance will have changed by July 2021 to allow it to take place. However, if the guidance does not allow the trip to go ahead the deposit will not be refunded as this will be held by the tour operator.

Like many schools, we are having to book with a deposit to secure a place. At this stage we need to know if your child would like to go on the trip to enable us to make a provisional booking. If there are enough children who want to go, we will need a **deposit of £50 in September so that we can secure the booking. This deposit will be non-refundable.**

Further information about the trip and payment plan will be available in September.

The Isle of Wight is approximately 2 hours away via coach and ferry just off the south coast. It has lots of places to visit, beautiful beaches, historical houses & castle, country parks and coastal walks. You can find further information here <https://www.visitisleofwight.co.uk/>

Please could you complete the google form <https://forms.gle/swBQUVC8xMR6L1nS9> to express an interest by Monday 20th July 2020.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Keogh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'L' and 'K'.

Lisa Keogh
Headteacher