

Ghyllside Primary School

Gillinggate, Kendal, Cumbria.

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Headteacher : Mr.H.B.Davies (BA. Hons)

Monday 14th January 2019

Y5 Residential Visit to Derwentwater: Wednesday 8th May – Friday 10th May 2019 **Information Meeting: Monday 28th January at 5pm**

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is with great pleasure that we can confirm the dates of this year's residential visit to the Youth Hostel at Derwentwater (Barrow House) and invite you to an information meeting on Monday 28th January at 5pm in Mr Duxbury's classroom.

As some of you may know, our summer project in Year 5 is "Our Cumbria". We learn about: the mountain environment of the Lake District, the history of the woollen trade in the county and Kendal in particular, landscape art and the work of some of the Lakeland Poets. We are passionate believers in children learning through first-hand experience so over the course of the three day visit, children will:

- Visit Whinlatter Forest (the only true mountain forest in England) to learn about the way in which it is managed together with the work done to support native wildlife there, participate in shelter building and teambuilding challenges.
- Go fell walking...a stunning day's walk taking the ferry across to Hawes End, making an ascent of Cat Bells, returning via the southern end of Derwentwater and Lodore Falls (scene of Robert Southey's inspiration for his epic poem "The Cataract of Lodore")
- Participate in outdoor art and poetry workshops at the iconic Ashness Bridge, making preparatory studies for work to be completed back in school and visit a working hill farm run by The National Trust to learn more about how the uplands are farmed and about the woollen trade in Cumbria.
...and all in just three days!!

Cost

The cost of this year's visit will be **£110** per child and this includes all meals (except packed lunch on the first day), transport, Forestry Commission and National Trust rangers and activities, and accommodation. We manage to keep the cost so low through using a Youth Hostel for accommodation and through leading the hillwalking, art and poetry sessions ourselves so we are not paying for expensive "activity centre" staff. We are incredibly fortunate at Ghyllside to have so many staff and parent volunteers well qualified and experienced to take children out into the mountain environment. Our reason for keeping the cost so (relatively) low is to endeavour to get all children on the visit. Over the last few years we have managed to get almost every child there. This has a huge impact on the learning done back in school and upon the children's social and personal organisation skills.

If you decide, either before or after the information evening, that you would like your child to attend, we will be asking for a non-returnable deposit of **£40** per child to secure the hostel booking. This will **need to be paid by Friday 1st March** with the balance (**remaining £70**) due by **Friday 26th April**.

For this trip you can again choose to make the deposit and further payments online. You will receive a text message with your password to give you access to your **SchoolMoney** account. Please visit the website www.eduspot.co.uk and click on the sign in button in the top right hand corner. In the drop down, select the **SchoolMoney Parent Login** option and this will send you through to a page where you need to enter your mobile number, email address, the password we have sent to you and your child's first name. After paying the initial deposit you can choose to pay the remaining balance in as many instalments as you wish before the deadline. If you have any problems paying online please come and see us at the school office, we can also accept debit card payments at the office. If your family are struggling financially, please do not hesitate to call in and talk to us about ways in which we may be able to help.

Help needed

We need willing and experienced parents to help out on the mountain walk up Catbells on Thursday 9th May. If you want to help, please keep the date free and we will co-ordinate parent helpers nearer the time. Some experience walking in the Lakes fells would be useful but not essential. We would particularly appreciate help from any qualified mountain leaders.

Sounds great, so what do I do now?

Come along to the information evening on January 28th where we will show photos from last year's visit, talk a bit more about the activities and accommodation in more detail and, most importantly, answer the questions you may have. The permission slip attached will need to be completed to indicate that you wish your child to go. This can be done immediately or you can complete it after the information evening on the 28th January.

The final day to return this slip is Friday 1st February as we have to collate numbers and confirm the booking at that point.

Please note these important dates:

- Information Evening: Monday 28th January at 5pm in Mr Duxbury's room
- Initial permission slip (at the bottom of this letter): Return by Fri 1st February
- Deposit of £40 due by Friday 1st March
- Remaining balance of £70 to be paid by Friday 26th April
- Date of Trip: Wednesday 8th May – Friday 10th May 2019

If you prefer to pay in smaller instalments, please pay online or send money in to school as and when convenient.

Many thanks for your ongoing support, helping us to provide the best possible learning opportunities for our children.

Dan Duxbury

Tara Blackburn

Jane Reedy

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I, _____ (parent/carer), give permission for my child

_____ to attend the Derwentwater residential on

the above dates.

