

Ghyllside Primary School

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

Year 6 Expedition Club - Monday 4th March – 10th June 2019

8th February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may be aware in school this year we are running an Expedition Club for children in Year 6. This club will take the form of **2.5 days of training in school** – all day on 25.3.19 and afternoons on 4.3.19, 1.4.19 and 29.4.19. These sessions aim to develop the children's outdoor skills. It is worth noting that most of these sessions will take place outside: in the school grounds, Serpentine Woods and Cunswick Scar. **Please also consider at this point that, for obvious reasons, expectations with regard to behaviour, attitude, personal organisation and attendance are somewhat higher than with other after school activities. This club requires a degree of commitment from your child (and yourselves) if we are going to reach the necessary point where we are willing and able to trust your child's skill and judgement on the expedition.**



In addition to the day school sessions there will be a **mountain day** on Sunday 5th May when, depending on performance and attitude in the sessions, children will have the experience of walking in the Lake District mountains and putting into practice some of the skills they have acquired.

This will then lead to a **3-day expedition in the Lake District** over a long weekend from Saturday 8th June to Monday 10th June. On this expedition it is hoped that children will carry their own camping equipment, pitch their tents, cook and navigate for themselves (with adult supervision). For the past several years we have used Langdale campsite for one night, then camped 'wild' in the mountains on the other. There is much flexibility with the plan for the expedition and we are going to see how children fare in the sessions and on the mountain day before making any concrete decisions.



That is the plan and I'm sure you'll agree that it is exciting and ambitious. In many ways a mini Duke of Edinburgh! The guiding principle of the club is that it is for all children in Year 6 and we hope that cost should not prohibit participation. The cost of the Expedition Club this year will be £40, if this is an issue for anybody please come in and see us. It will also be necessary for your child to have appropriate clothing for the mountain day and expedition particularly, but if you struggle to get all of this together please let us know as we will be able to help with this, we have begun to build a bank of spare waterproof jackets and trousers which we are able to lend. This will all be co-ordinated at the sessions. A full 'kit list' will be sent out later this month but it will by no means be expected that you rush out and buy these things for your child. One cost that may be unavoidable will be for a well-fitting pair of walking boots. More guidance will follow on which boots will be sufficient, but the minimum cost of a decent pair is £20.

We are in a strong position at Ghyllside School in having many staff with lots of experience in the outdoors. All activities relating to the club will be staffed by appropriately qualified and experienced adults and will be fully risk assessed. Having said this, the things we have planned will not be possible without significant parent support, notably on certain sessions, the expedition and mountain day. We will send out a letter that will indicate where help is most needed in due course, and hope you can pitch in and assist us. Can we also ask any parents who are qualified Mountain Leaders and wish to be involved to contact one of us in school?

All that remains for now is for your child and yourself to decide whether they wish to be involved and return the slip attached to their class teacher by **no later than Friday 15th February**. We do not need payment at this stage. If you have any further questions about the club please do not hesitate to ask in school. More specific information regarding the specifics of sessions and times will follow in early February once we have an idea of numbers.

Thank you

Dan Duxbury

Please return the slip to your child's class teacher

Year 6 Expedition Club 2019

I _____ parent/carer wish my child

_____ to take part in the 2019 Expedition Club.

