

## A Brief Guide to the Year 6 Isle of Wight Trip 2023

The information below is a summary of what was discussed at the Isle of Wight meeting held in school.

**Dates:** 3 – 7 July 2023. We are away for 5 days and 4 nights; from approximately 8am on the Monday morning to 4pm on the Friday.

**Purpose:** To provide the children with an exciting range of first-hand experiences whilst also developing their social skills and independence. It is also, quite simply, a brilliant way to finish Year 6.

**How does it work?** The children going are split into two groups for the week and follow the same itinerary but on different days. Both groups travel together on the ferry journey to and from the island and also spend the Wednesday together at Blackgang Chine (a theme park on the island); for the remainder of the week they are separate. The two groups are formed after the children, at the beginning of the summer term, submit the names of 4 children they would like to share a room with and these choices are used to organise the rooms and hotel groups.

**Accommodation:** We stay in two hotels in Sandown, *Chester Lodge* and the *Malvern Hotel*. These hotels have been having school groups for over ten years each and are extremely experienced at dealing with large groups of children. Whilst we are



staying at the hotels, we are the only people there (they return to welcoming members of the public at the weekend!). In the hotels, room sizes vary from 2 to 6 children. Some of the rooms have bunkbeds, others have single beds and all bedding is provided. All meals, apart from lunch on Monday, are provided by the hotel and children choose from a range of meal choices for each day. The hotels are very experienced at catering for a range of dietary requirements.



**Itinerary:** It is an action-packed 5 days and we cram in a varied and entertaining selection of activities. These include: a visit to Osborne House, Queen Victoria's



summer retreat; a visit to Carisbrooke Castle, a castle which exemplifies all the changes castles went through from the Norman conquest until the present day; trips to the beach to paddle, dig huge holes, play football, bury ourselves (!) and build sandcastles; a visit to a planetarium to observe the constellations; a boat trip out to the Needles at Alum Bay; a visit to a glassblowing factory (truly incredible!); a walk up Tennyson Down; rockpooling at Freshwater Bay (who can find the biggest crab?!); a smugglers' walk (dress up as pirates and take a walk down to the beach trying to avoid the locals!); a disco (put your dancing clothes on and show people some moves!) and a trip to Blackgang Chine theme park (with a rollercoaster, water slides, a maze and the best 'ride' ever: Snakes and Ladders - ask Mr Kemp!).



**Do I have to go?** The short answer is 'no'. We fully understand that five days away is not for everyone and every year there are some children who do not go. A full programme of activities, designed to be exciting and interactive, will be put on for those children who remain at school.

**Behaviour:** Taking a large group of children away for 5 days is a rewarding and thoroughly enjoyable (and quite tiring!) experience, but we do need to know that we can trust the children who come away with us in order to keep everyone safe. If children cannot follow instructions in school, we cannot safely take them away on this trip.



**Cost:** £340; a deposit of £75 is required by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November to secure your place on the trip. Payment support is available for children eligible for FSM, so please contact Mr Kemp if this applies to you.

**Payment plan:** There are two primary payment plans, but if they do not work for you, please contact Mr Kemp to discuss an alternative payment structure.

1. Pay the remaining balance of £265 in the week beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.
2. Pay the remaining balance in three instalments: £85 in the week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023; £90 in the week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> February and £90 in the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> April.

**FAQs** (from the children!):

**What time do we go to bed?** It varies, but usually around 9:30pm.

**Do we have to wear school uniform?** No – but we do ask that children wear a leavers' hoodie (which are purchased in the summer term) or a school jumper on the Monday morning so the Northmead children are identifiable on the ferry.

**What do I need to bring?** A full kit list will be handed out in the summer term – but it includes being prepared for the full range of British weather!

**Do I bring medications?** Yes – a medical form will be filled out during the summer term, along with dietary requirements, and any medication is then handed over to group leaders before we leave on the Monday morning.

**Can I bring a phone?** No. (It is a great chance to prove you can live without one for 5 days!)

**Do we go swimming?** No. We can paddle on the beach, but there is no swimming.

**Moving forward:** A Parentmail form will come out by the end of October asking whether your child will or will not be going on the residential. After this point, the payment system on Parentmail will open and a £75 deposit will be required to secure a place on the trip by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November. Please note that by paying the deposit you are committing to paying the full amount. (The governors of the school do reserve the right to cancel the trip if there is a shortfall in payment.)



This is a brief summary guide to the trip. We have talked in school to the children about the trip and hope they are really excited to go, but do fully understand that it is not for everyone. If you have any further questions, please email your child's class teacher or Mr Kemp.

[6k@northmead.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:6k@northmead.surrey.sch.uk)