

Head Teacher: Mr D Barrow

Mortimer Road
Kenilworth
Warwickshire
CV8 1FS

01926 854450

www.st-johns.warwickshire.sch.uk

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Dear KS2 Parents and Carers,

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL TRIPS

We are currently reassessing our choice of residential experience for children in Upper Key Stage 2. At St John's, we believe that school trips provide a great opportunity for pupils to gain experience and face a range of challenges that can contribute significantly to their personal development. They offer opportunities to develop interpersonal skills, including leadership, team work, trust and respect. There are also issues concerning the psychology of the whole experience, particularly involving self-confidence, self-esteem and resilience. In addition, school trips can make a major contribution to the acquisition of knowledge and development of skills. Studies of the natural and man-made world, the present and past, science and arts, language and music can all be enhanced outside the classroom. Adventure activity and sports skills can form the foundation of life-long interests, as well as address the health and obesity agendas.

In order to gain the thoughts of more parents on the choice of residential trip, it was suggested at the last Parents' Forum meeting that a brief questionnaire be carried out. Following research, I have decided that the best approach is to provide you with four options to rank in order of preference. We will, of course, report our findings before making any final decision. Given the following four choices, which would you choose? Simply indicate your preference against each option (ranking from 1 to 4, with 1 being the best and 4 being the worst) and return this sheet to school as soon as possible!

Please rank in order

1 to 4

British seaside location

Four nights in a large house, approx £350, range of outdoor physical and non-physical activity, e.g. orienteering, team building, high ropes course, steam train journey, trip to Corfe Castle, beach combing and sculpture, life boat visit
(3 hour coach journey)

**PGL outdoor adventure
(Britain)**

Four nights, approx £450, large range of outdoor physical activities
(3 hour coach journey)

French cultural experience

Three nights in a chateau, approx £300, trips to local attractions, e.g. goat farm cheese tasting, beach and markets, cooking, swimming and team games
(15 hour ferry and coach journey)

**PGL cultural and outdoor
experience (France)**

Four nights in a chateau, approx £430, Normandy with higher emphasis on language and outdoor activities
(9 hour coach and tunnel or ferry journey)

Thank you for your co-operation,

Mrs Helen Benarous
Assistant Head