

Year 5 residential visit to Mersea Island

FAQ meeting

24th April 2019

Mrs Vickers welcomed everyone and discussed a few important issues (some of which have already been communicated or covered in the original meeting in the Autumn term):

Medical needs:

- Medical forms have been taken home by the pupils this evening - this includes space to note food allergies and also to give photo permission. Please return this soon.
- If travel sickness pills need to be taken, please do this before arriving at school.
- Miss Enever will be available to receive any medicines or discuss any other medical concerns from 8.45am in the hall.
- Any medicines for the duration of the trip need to be put into a sealed plastic bag with a note of the dosage. Please do not rely on school staff to retrieve medication that is stored at school – this should really be kept at school so there is no chance of it not being available after Mersea because of it not being brought back in. If there is no alternative to this, parents must ask the office themselves before handing it in to Miss Enever.

Activities and kit list:

- Kit lists have gone home today. A copy will be put onto the website.
- An example timetable is available – the activities will include caving, climbing wall, high ropes, archery, adventure course, (a very, very muddy one!), zip wire, low ropes, etc. A copy will be put onto the website.
- The instructors will encourage the children to take part in the activities but no one is forced to do anything they don't want to.
- One addition to the kit list - insect repellent roll on or wipes may be beneficial. Aerosol sprays should not be brought.
- Day bags/small rucksacks are useful for what the children need to carry around each day from the tents to the activities.

On the day of departure:

- Please arrive at school at the normal time. The coaches will leave at about 10am so it is best to say goodbye at the usual start time of school.
- Luggage needs to be brought into the hall. Luggage should be a hold all or rucksack that they can carry themselves.
- A large shopping bag is often useful to carry dirty clothes or wellies or shoes
- Everything needs to be labelled please!
- It is always helpful for the children to be involved in the packing process so they know what they have with them.
- Please also check the children's luggage before they leave the house so that they aren't bringing things with them they shouldn't!
- The children should come in normal clothes, ready to start the activities shortly after we arrive. No uniform is needed for the trip.

- A packed lunch must be brought for the first day.

While at Mersea:

- A Dropbox for photos taken by staff will be available – more details in the week before we go.
- Food at Mersea is very good and plentiful so no one will starve! The children are allowed to bring some extra snacks but no chocolates and nothing with nuts in please.
- Groups – the pupils will write down 3 other children they would like to share a (single-gender) tent with and we will endeavour to place them with at least one of the children on that list.
- The other group they will be in is a day group of about 10 children for the activities. These will be mixed up from the 3 classes and the teachers will decide on these.
- The children will be responsible for keeping their tents tidy and clean.
- Our behaviour expectations are still the same and this will be reinforced with house points, raffle tickets and, if necessary, use of the amber and red zones.
- Communication will be via the school's twitter feed, Dropbox photos and the school mobile phone (number to be communicated separately) if absolutely necessary.

Parent questions at the meeting:

Can girls take leggings instead of trousers?

Yes

Can you bring waterproof trousers?

Yes but they are not essential.

Are earrings allowed?

It would be best to leave all jewellery at home.

Are roll mats needed?

No, these are provided.

Are the tents sealed in with a ground sheet?

Yes

Can blankets be brought as well as sleeping bags?

Yes - as well as onesies, spare sweaters.

Would a head torch be a good idea to bring?

Yes, any torch would be ok.

How safe is it to go to the toilets in the night?

Perfectly safe - the site is secure, the children must go with a friend or if they feel they need to, they can come and ask a staff member/parent helper.

Are the teachers in tents next to the children?

We are in cabins in front of the tents which are in a horseshoe formation.

What time will you get back on the Wednesday?

We should be back in time for the end of the day. Please collect the children from the hall, not from the side of the road as this will cause congestion for the rest of the school and also make it very difficult for the teachers to account for/safely dismiss their pupils.

Parents can speak with their class teacher about anything else that concerns them before the trip, particularly during the Wednesday after-school drop in.