



Wednesday 29th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Due to the ongoing situation with Covid-19, we have decided to **postpone** our Year 6 residential to Hooke Court, originally planned for September 2020. At present we are not yet able to give an exact re-arranged date, but we will confirm this with you as soon as we are able to. We will be setting a new date in the Spring or Summer term of 2021, but the visit will include the same activities. Hooke Court is an important and exciting experience for all our pupils, and we continue to aim for all Year 6 children to take part in the visit.

The cost to parents of the trip will remain the same as previously stated: £133 per child. This includes all accommodation, meals and activities with specialist instructors for three days and two nights, and is great value compared to the cost of many residential trips. Timings for full payment will be adjusted and clarified as soon as the new dates are confirmed, but we encourage parents to commit to the visit and pay the **£40 deposit** as soon as possible, so that we can put other plans in place for the visit. The deposit is payable through the School Gateway payment system and the previous deadline has been moved to **Friday 19th June 2020**.

We do understand that many families are under increased financial pressure due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and we do not wish to increase this pressure in any way. One of the reasons for moving the date of the visit is to give families more time to be able to pay. Therefore, if you would like your child to go to Hooke Court but are not currently able to pay the deposit or balance due to current circumstances, please speak to Mr Hatt or Miss Heslop.

Unfortunately, the parent information meeting about the trip had to be cancelled. As we are still currently unable to meet with parents, please see our information video about the trip which is on the school website. If you have any questions or concerns about the visit or about your child's support needs, please contact Miss Heslop - either by email at Year6@westbury-jun.wilts.sch.uk or by phoning the school and asking for a message to be passed on.

The information that follows this letter was included in the letter sent out on 26th February. It has been included for further information in case you missed that letter. Please do get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. Stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Heslop - Year 6 teacher

WESTBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL

Headteacher: Richard Hatt

Oldfield Park Westbury Wiltshire BA13 3LY

Telephone: 01373822695 Mobile: 07977937460

E-mail: admin@westbury-jun.wilts.sch.uk

www.westbury-jun.wilts.sch.uk Twitter: @WestburyJuniors

HOOKE COURT TRIP INFORMATION

The trip to Hooke Court is a highlight of being at Westbury Junior School, and is an essential experience at the start of Year 6, as the pupils develop their independence, teamwork and problem-solving skills. We understand that for some, who might not have been away from home before, this is a big step, but we believe it is a necessary one as we prepare them for leaving us and joining a secondary school. All school staff and residential centre staff have experience of supporting children with whole range of physical, social and learning needs and are great at making sure every child gets the most out of their visit.

Venue: Hooke Court Education Centre

Hooke Court is a specialist residential education centre in the village of Hooke near Beaminster, Dorset. The centre provides qualified instructors who lead six activities but each group will also be led by an adult from Westbury Junior School. Activities vary a little every year, but last year included shelter building, preparing food and cooking on an open fire, orienteering during the day and team games, activities and a disco in the evenings. If you want to find out more about the centre, their website is **www.hoekecourt.co.uk**

What is included? The trip is a 3 day, 2 night stay. Apart from lunch on the first day, all meals are provided by the centre and we will ask you about any specific allergies and dietary requirements which we pass on. The children sleep in bunk-bedded dormitories of varying size between 2 and 10 people. The groups are chosen by the children and year group teachers nearer the time! School staff will be on call for the children around the clock if there are any worries or problems.

PRICE: The cost of the trip is **£133** which covers the cost the centre charges us per child. The trip requires a **£40 non-refundable deposit by Friday 19th June 2020**. The remaining £93 needs to be paid around 3 months before the trip (date to be confirmed). We can easily set up an instalment scheme if you would prefer to pay the money in small, regular amounts. Please ask at the office or see me if there are any concerns about this. The cost of the coach is not included and has always been paid through fund-raising which will take place in the months before the trip.

Both the school staff and the Hooke Court staff have great experience of accommodating children with different needs, so please do contact us about your child's needs if you have any worries about them taking part. We need to plan a long way in advance for who will be coming, and those not attending the residential will be expected to be in school and have work set for them. To let us know that your child will be attending, please contact school (email Year6@westbury-jun.wilts.sch.uk or phone the school office). If your child chooses not to come and then changes their mind nearer the date and wishes to come, we cannot guarantee that a place can be added.

Visiting Hooke Court is a great opportunity for all the children and is always considered a highlight of being at WJS. If you or your child have any concerns, please feel able to discuss these with myself or Mr Hatt as we are happy to help find solutions where we can.

We continue to work towards planning a memorable and enjoyable visit for all. Thank you for your ongoing support.