



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

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Head of School: Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Thursday 10th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Since the beginning of term, in response to all of the financial challenges coming our way, as a staff team we have been discussing the best ways in which we can support parents and carers financially.

For me, besides uniform, one of the most costly things we ask of you, is the payments for the PGL residential trips in Year 5 and Year 6. I am aware these trips cost a lot of money, and that for some of you, we are asking you to pay them for two children (if you are a parent of twins) and also two consecutive years in a row.

I have looked into ways in which we can reduce the cost for you as families. In exploring all of the options, the most sensible option to me is to reduce the amount of time we spend on the coming trip in February to three days rather than five. In reducing the amount of days, we reduce the cost also, bringing the total down from £275 per child to £165 per child. I have toyed with the idea of cancelling the Year 5 trip completely, however I think this would cause a lot of disappointment for the children, as they are expecting it to happen and were very excited discussing it with Year 6 on their recent return from their PGL experience. The PGL trip to Marchants Hill has also been planned specifically to link to the Year 5 Geography curriculum, which is another reason why I don't want to cancel the trip completely. If any parent is struggling financially and would like to speak to me about support around the payment, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

So, the trip will still go ahead on Monday 6th February, but the children will now return on Wednesday 8th February. All travel arrangements will stay the same. If you have already paid more than this, we would be happy to refund the excess, or carry it over in your account to go towards the Year 6 trip. Please have a conversation with Jackie about how you would like to proceed with that.

I will also be holding a session for parents on Wednesday 23rd November, via zoom, to share more information on the trip itself. You will receive a zoom invite on Monday 21st November. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Head of School

