



YATTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL

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30th June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 5 children,

Year 6 Residential Visit to Morfa Bay October 2021

We would like to give you an update and further information about the Y6 Residential Visit to Morfa Bay scheduled for **Monday 4th October – Friday 8th October 2021** (4 nights).

We are being asked if the trip is 'definitely' going ahead. Unfortunately, due to ongoing uncertainties regarding the Covid situation, we cannot guarantee this and cannot rule out that circumstances could arise when we could not go or have an impact on the trip; however, we are still very much planning to go and are optimistic that it will be able to take place.

Reminder: We need to remind you that the deposit you have paid is **non-refundable** once we have paid the deposit to Morfa Bay. The remaining balance of £250.00 will need to be paid in full by **Friday 3rd September** using ParentPay. (You may pay in instalments as and when you wish via ParentPay before the balance is due). If you require a barcoded letter please ask at the School Office. (If your child is entitled to Free School Meals/Pupil Premium information about the funding of this trip has already been sent separately to you.)

We want to provide you with further information about the visit – so we have prepared answers to some Morfa Bay FAQ – some of the information we have provided you with already but there is also more detail about the visit and what your child can expect.

Morfa Bay FAQ

What will my child need to take?

Attached to this letter is a **kit list** for going to Morfa Bay. This provides a guide to what your child should (or shouldn't) bring.

Please note that mobile phones are **NOT** allowed. We do not allow children (except in exceptional circumstances) to ring home because experience has proved that this can lead to homesickness amongst the group. Trust us – we will call you if we have concerns about your child or feel that your child really needs to talk with you. Hand held electronic gaming devices are also **NOT** allowed on this trip. IPODs / MP3 players may be taken for use for listening to music, etc, on the coach. Cameras are allowed – but must be named/labelled and the children need to be responsible for them. Jewellery is inappropriate during an activity week such as this, so please ensure it is left at home (stud ear-rings may be worn as long as they can be removed or covered whilst participating in activities). **Please** can we ask you to avoid sending your child with any 'valuables' (either of great sentimental or monetary value) as if these do get lost or damaged whilst away it can cause considerable upset or worry. It is also important to re-iterate that Morfa Bay is a wet / muddy activity week! The children do **not** need to bring specialist equipment and (apart, perhaps for an outfit for the disco) they do not need smart clothes – some clothing may not survive the experience!

What groups will my child be in?

With the numbers of children we are taking, there are likely to be 7 activity groups of no more than 12 children in each group. All the groups will have the opportunity to try all the different activities at some time during the week. We will organise the groups in September and will take friendships into consideration but of course your child won't necessarily be able to be with all the people they want. Each activity will be led by a trained Morfa Bay instructor and be accompanied by at least one member of the school staff team. Sometimes groups are combined to do an activity together.

What will the activities be?

The main activities we will be doing won't be finalised until September but they are likely to be similar to activities we have done in the past, such as:

- Body Boarding / Sea activities on Pendine Beach
- Climbing Wall / Zip Line / Abseiling / High Ropes course (on-site)
- Mud Assault Course (on-site)
- 'Woodland Scramble' (a course through a woodland and walking through a stream/river with various challenges)
- Beach Study / Rockpooling on Pendine Beach
- Mountain Biking (on-site)
- Archery (on-site)
- Bushcraft (on-site)
- Orienteering
- Crate stacking team building challenges (on-site)

These may be subject to change due to weather conditions, for example.

Please contact us if you have any queries about what these activities involve or if you have any concerns about your child taking part in them.

There will also be various activities organised for the pupils by Morfa Bay and/or Yatton staff in the evenings: e.g evening walks, challenges, last-night disco, etc.

When will the children depart and return?

We will confirm precise timings in September but we aim to have the coaches packed up and depart by around 8:30 on the Monday morning and return at around 4pm on Friday afternoon – we may choose to return a little earlier than that but we'll let you know in September.

Which adults are accompanying the children?

The final staff team will be confirmed in September but the Y6 teachers are all expected to be there along with additional adults from the school.

Where will my child sleep?

There are 4 main chalets / 'dorms' for the children to sleep in – 2 for the boys and 2 for the girls. There are likely to be around 20 in each dorm. Children are not allowed in each others' dorms. There is a toilet in each dorm. Sometimes we have an option for a small group to be in another quieter room but we cannot guarantee this. The dorms have security-coded entry pads and are situated next door to the staff block so the children know where to come to if they need someone, day or night. Staff regularly patrol the dorms!

What is the journey like?

The coach journey to/from Pendine takes around 3 hours - including a stop at a motorway services for the children to have some fresh air and go to the toilet.

What is a typical day at Morfa like?

On the Monday, after arrival, lunch and introduction by the Morfa Team, the children do one main activity in the afternoon. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, there is usually 1 main activity in the morning

then, after lunch, 2 further activities in the afternoon. As mentioned above, there are various evening activities. Before bedtimes, the children have the opportunity to 'wind down' with a hot chocolate and settle into bed, with time to read a book quietly. 'Lights out' tends to be by 9:30pm but does vary. In the mornings, children are usually asked to stay in their dorms until around 7:30am. Breakfast tends to be around 8:15 or 8:30. Between activities, there will be some short periods of 'downtime' when the children will be able to play on the field, play area or small games room – all on-site – or just sit quietly with their friends. As you would expect, the children will be supervised by school adults during these times.

Do I need to provide any food?

The only meal you need to provide is a packed lunch for the first day (Monday). All other meals are provided. Morfa Bay provides us with a menu just before we go from which children can choose the meal they want in advance.

We would appreciate the children **NOT** bringing lots of tuck with them. They may wish to bring a **small bag** of sweets/chocolates/small snacks that will be shared amongst their activity group during the week. This bag will be handed to their group leader on the first day at Morfa Bay.

What if my child has particular medical / dietary needs?

We and Morfa are quite used to accommodating various medical and dietary needs so please don't worry - but it is very important that we know these in advance so we can pass on any necessary information to Morfa staff and we can work out how best how to manage the needs. Please write down details on the essential information form when we send it out but if you feel you need to talk to one of us in advance about meeting your child's needs please get in touch. We need to be notified about any medication your child needs to have when away from home – this will have to be clearly labelled and handed in to staff on the morning we leave.

Does my child need any spending money?

The children do not *need* pocket money on this trip but there is a small shop at Morfa Bay which will be open one evening during the week for the children to purchase gifts or souvenirs. The **maximum** amount of pocket money your child should bring with them is £5. Staff will take this in advance and hand out when appropriate.

What if my child gets ill or homesick?

It is very common for some children to get homesick during their time away, especially when they are tired in the evenings. Usually in time and with some 'TLC' they come through this and have a great time. Also, on occasions, of course, children will fall ill. Just as we would do in school, if we are particularly concerned about your child, we will be in contact to talk it through with you – and will always let you know if we feel we need to take your child to a doctor. If your child is so poorly or upset that we feel they need to come home, you may need to come and collect her/him.

Will I get a refund if the trip does not go ahead or if my child cannot go due to illness?

As explained, the £50 deposit paid is non-refundable. If your child is ill before or during the trip and either does not go or has to come home part way through the week, then we will endeavour to secure you a partial refund but this will depend on the goodwill of Morfa Bay, as certain costs will already have been incurred, eg food and staffing.

If the trip is cancelled due to Covid restrictions (either because Morfa Bay are unable to open/operate or because we are advised not to proceed with the trip on the advice of Government guidelines at the time the trip is due to take place) then you should get a full refund (including the deposit).

If your child is unable to attend for all or part of the week due to Covid, eg, having to self-isolate, then a partial refund may be possible - we will need to negotiate with Morfa Bay and our insurers.

What are the behaviour expectations for the children?

We would appreciate you working with us in emphasising the importance of high standards of behaviour whilst away. We want to ensure that everybody has a great time at Morfa Bay - that everyone is safe and happy. We will remind the children again before we leave how important it is that they follow instructions fully (for their own sake and each others') and respect the feelings of other children at all times. **We have to emphasise that, if we feel a child is not responding safely to instructions or not behaving responsibly, we may have to ask a parent / carer to come and collect their child. Please make sure you have plans in place for you or another chosen adult to come and collect your child from Morfa Bay if required (whether that be due to illness or behaviour issues.)** We also need to mention that should we be especially concerned in advance of the trip that a child is not willing to follow adults' instructions or behave responsibly we may need to inform parents that we don't feel we are able to take the child away.

What if we need to get in touch with you/my child at Morfa Bay?

We ask that you only get in touch in an emergency or for really important reasons. During the day we would ask you to relay messages through school. Out of school hours the contact number for Morfa Bay is **01994 453588**.

We hope that this letter answers most of your questions and provides you with the information you need at the moment about going to Morfa Bay.

In the first week back in September you will be sent an **'Essential Information' form** which we will need everyone to complete and return promptly. This will include confirmation of contact details and any medical/dietary information we need to have, including your child's NHS number.

However, importantly, **please** get in touch with us before then if you have any other questions or if you feel you need to discuss **anything** relating to your child going away – the more we know, the better chance we have of ensuring they have an enjoyable and rewarding time, which, over the years, the vast majority of children have had!

We will, of course, keep you informed of any changes and further information including details of timings, the itinerary and confirmation of staffing will be sent out in September. We may also be able to arrange an after school meeting/drop in session for parents early in the term (if circumstances allow) to give you another chance to ask questions or pass on information – but we'll keep you informed later – but please don't hold back in getting in touch with us about any aspects of the trip.

If you haven't already done so, you may also wish to look at the Morfa Bay website: www.morfabay.com

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Heywood
Deputy Headteacher

Kit List for Morfa Bay

*The following is a guide to the kind of kit that you will require for an activity week at Morfa Bay Outdoor Centre. **Several activities include getting wet and very muddy: it is not the sort of place to bring new/best clothes!***

- One sleeping bag, pillow and pillowcase
- At least one waterproof anorak or cagoule
- Three warm sweatshirts/jumpers
- Three or four pairs of tracksuit bottoms or similar (waterproof trousers can be useful)
- Several pairs (at least three pairs recommended) of shoes/trainers (Not including Disco shoes!)

Plus One old pair of shoes/trainers for the assault course (Likely to be thrown away)

- Shorts and t-shirts
- Three large towels - Preferably dark in colour and NAMED!
- Pyjamas/nightie
- Underwear and socks – they will need **more than one set per day** to allow for wet/mud – suggest around 8 pairs of underwear and socks.
- Swimming costume/trunks/shorts (2 if possible)
- One set of smart(ish) clothes for disco
- Wetwear sandals, e.g. reefs/jellies (if you have them)
- Wellies
- Toilet bag, toiletries, brush/comb
- Three bin liners (Labelled) - To bring home all dirty/wet clothing!
- Small bag/rucksack for carrying swimming gear etc.
- One small plastic bottle for carrying drink
- Plastic mug/cup (Essential if you want a hot drink at night)

Sun protection, lip salve (for unexpected hot spells)

Warm hat and gloves (for the rather more predictable Welsh weather)

One stamped addressed postcard for sending home

Pencil/pen/writing pad

Other items

Children may wish to bring - they are responsible for looking after ALL items.

- camera (named/labelled)
- torch
- cuddly toy
- books/magazines/comics for evening reading/quiet time

Jewellery should be kept to a minimum. It must be removed before each activity.

Mobile phones are not to be brought on the visit.

Please use soft kit bags/holdalls rather than hard suitcases, if possible. Make sure your child has a list of their belongings, as this will make it easier for them when they have to pack their bags on Friday.

N.B. IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR ALL CLOTHING AND ALL OTHER ITEMS TO BE LABELLED AS THE MORFA BAY STAFF AND STAFF FROM SCHOOL CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ITEMS LOST OR MISLAID.