ParkdaleRoad
Carlton
Nottingham
NG4 1BX

0115 911 0066

www.parkdale.notts.sch.uk

office@parkdale.notts.sch.uk

@parkdalecarlton

Parkdale Primary School

www.transformtrust.co.uk

To: parents/Carers of current Year 5

Tuesday 10th December 2024

Year Six Residential

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well. Many thanks to those who took the time to complete the recent survey on next year's residential. We appreciate it's very early to be thinking about this, with the Year 5 Residential not yet done! However, Governors asked us to 'test the waters' as they, like us, have noted the rising cost of these experiences in times when finances are challenging for so many.

The outcome of the survey was strongly in favour of continuing to offer a residential to an activity centre. In fact this was 100% the choice – 77% for the current location and 23% for Walesby, with the great majority (74%) also favouring the 'other' as the best alternative.

No one had the cheaper camping option as first choice and fewer than 20% as second preference. Several were strongly against it. So a residential centre it will be.

When the booking window opens in January for 2026 and the 'early-bird' prices are announced, we will book either Mount Cook (as present) or Walesby, whichever of those two seems ot offer best value at the time. The accommodation at both looks good, both offer full board and a wide range of activities. We will visit Walesby to compare to Mount Cook for quality.

We will book early to secure the best available discounts and to get the preferred dates. Both sites fill up very, very quickly and prices go even higher the longer we leave it. Booking early also might help families with budgeting for this too.

We will continue to favour Summer Term, post SATs as a celebration and with the likelihood of more enjoyable weather. We will avoid the first week of July as that now looks fixed as our local transition day for Secondary schools in both Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City. We'll aim for late June.

You can compare both potential sites for yourself if that is helpful to you:

https://www.mountcook.uk/ - current cost approx. £270 incl transport

Eco-Schools Green Flag Award Holder

Gold Healthy Schools Nottinghamshire

Sainsbury's School Games Gold

MUSIC MARK

Arts Council England

We're working towards Artsmark Awarded by Arts Council England

Distinguished School

Recognized by Apple as a distinguished school for continuous innovation in learning, teaching, and the school environment.

https://www.walesbyforest.org.uk/ - equivalent cost approx. £225

On current prices then, Walesby comes in about £50 cheaper (or less expensive! And there would probably be a small saving on the transport cost. As usual, whichever location, we would use Pupil Premium funding to bring the cost down nearer to £100 for children in receipt of that.

The survey returns lead us to conclude that we would need to book for around 20 children. We had 22 returns, 2 of which expressed that they did not want a residential in any form. To help us with negotiating a price, we could really do with a firmer idea of numbers with names, so are asking at this point for your intentions. We would then request a deposit from you at the time of booking, realistically early February, to secure the place.

There is the usual Microsoft Forms reply sheet here: https://forms.office.com/e/Rgu2swwr3N or a paper version attached to the hard-copy letter if that is your preference.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Hillier, Headteacher