

29<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian

Little Canada, Isle of Wight 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> October 2009

Thank you for agreeing to your child joining this exciting residential trip. This letter is to provide you with some more detail.

The course is run by a professional body which we have been using for over ten years now. Instruction in all the activities and field work is carried out by trained personnel and their safety procedures are rigorously enforced. The children are split into groups and each group will have an instructor and a member of Vinehall School staff (Mr Butcher, Mrs Callard, Mrs Barrett or myself).

The children are accommodated in chalets which sleep up to seven and have their own bathrooms. Children lock their own chalet from inside at night. Staff chalets are distributed amongst the children's. We aim to have lights out by 9pm, after which adults will patrol to ensure that the children go swiftly to sleep. Most of the time this is not a problem as the days are very full and the children tired!

Food is offered on a cafeteria basis with a choice of meals including a salad bar. The centre will be notified of those children who have a medical need for a specific diet, but we would expect other children to avoid anything which they should not normally eat. School staff eat with the children and encourage them to eat plenty.

There is a first aid station on site which has close links with a General Practice should this be required. Should there be the need to contact the GP then you will be informed. It is important that children bring with them any medications they need for the weekend. These should be in a named bag which upon arrival at the centre can be handed over to Mrs Callard who will hold all of them and administer them as required. Those pupils with inhalers should keep them with them at all times and not hand them in. For **permanent boarders only**, Sister Victoria will ensure that all necessary medicines are passed to us. If you think that we should know something medically regarding your child, then please either write in with details or contact Mrs Redstone or myself.

We will be travelling by Rambler coach, leaving at 8.45 am on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October and returning at approximately 5.20 pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October. The coach stays with us during the weekend to take us to different parts of the island.

Attached is a suggested clothing list prepared by the centre. Permanent boarders will be assisted with packing, but parents need to ensure that these items are in school ready to be packed. Please note that walking boots or wellingtons are essential, together with waterproof jackets. Bedding is provided by the centre. In addition, children may bring a maximum of £5 pocket money as there is a small shop for the purchase of sweets and drinks together with the usual souvenirs. Mrs Callard will look after any money if it is handed to her in a named purse/bag.

For the coach journey, children may want to bring a book and a drink (non-fizzy). A small packet of sweets may be brought, but you should be aware that those eating large numbers of sweets are usually the ones that feel sick or fail to eat a sensible amount at meal times! Electronic items can be brought; these should be named and looked after by the child. Please note that the centre does not recommend that expensive items are brought. If you think that there is a real need for your child to have a mobile phone, then this should be named and handed into Mrs Callard.

The address of the centre:

PGL Adventure Centre  
Little Canada  
New Road  
Wootton  
Ryde  
Isle of Wight

Telephone for emergency use : 01983 885400

I hope that this has helped to answer most of the questions which are usually asked. If you would like further clarification then please contact either Mrs Redstone or myself.

Yours sincerely

David Jarratt  
Head of Science

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