

5 February 2010

Dear Parents

YEAR 7 VISIT TO FRANCE: 14 – 20 March 2010

Preparations are being finalised for the Year 7 visit to France. We shall be leaving school at **8.45am on Sunday 14 March**. Please could you ensure that your child arrives at school no later than **8.30am**, that his/her luggage (see below) is put into the luggage compartment of the coach and that he/she registers and collects a name tag before boarding the coach. School will provide a packed lunch and tea for all children on the outward journey. A packed lunch/meal will be provided for the return journey so children will not need to buy any food on either the outward or return journey. We are expected back at school at about **4.00pm on Saturday 20 March**. Please check the info-line on that day for a more accurate arrival time (01580 883058).

LUGGAGE

Please could you ensure that your child's luggage is kept to a minimum. We recommend a small SOFT suitcase or holdall bag (see packing list below). We shall be travelling to the château via Eurotunnel and it is important that all pupils also have a small "day bag" with them that contains items they may need during the journey as they will not have access to their main luggage until we arrive at the château at about 8.30 on Sunday evening. It is important that all children bring quiet (and small!) activities which they can do during the coach journey. Please do not give your child sweets/chocolate/fizzy drinks for the journey or for their time at the château. No objects of value should be taken to the château eg jewellery, expensive watches. Ipods are allowed but **please ensure that all items including ipods/cameras are clearly marked with your child's name**. Mobile phones are not allowed on this visit. In the past they have caused unnecessary problems and the emphasis during the week is very much on immersion in the French language and culture. Please do not be alarmed if your child does not telephone you! Should you require any reassurance or in case of emergency, you may phone school who will contact us directly.

POCKET MONEY

Pocket money is included in the cost of the trip and children will be given a small amount to spend when there is an opportunity to do so.

MEDICATION

Mrs Hoffmann will be responsible for administering medication during the pupils' stay in France. If your child is asthmatic, please ensure that Mrs Hoffmann has a spare inhaler. It is essential that your child also carries an inhaler **at all times**. If your child is taking any medication, please ensure that this is given to matron – clearly labelled with your child's name and instructions – no later than Monday 9 March. We do not want pupils to administer their own medication. We shall have a supply of paracetamol tablets should anyone experience minor pain during the trip. If you do not want us to give such a tablet to your child, please let Mrs Hoffmann know **in writing/by email** (hhoffmann@vinehallschool.com).

Please also ensure that your child has travel sickness pills if these are necessary. They should be clearly labelled with your child's name and handed to Mrs Hoffmann prior to departure.

PASSPORT / EHIC

Please bring both the passport and the EHIC Insurance Card to the school office as soon as possible after half term but **no later than Friday, 5 March**.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at lhunter@vinehallschool.com

Yours sincerely
Lynda Hunter
Head of French

Suggested packing list for French trip
Please – NO make-up or aerosol spray products
- ensure all items are clearly NAMED

Passport) to be handed to the school office as soon as possible after half term
E111) but **not later than Friday, 5 March**

Small ruck-sack/daybag for day trips
Pencil case and pencils
French/English dictionary
Games/books for the journey
Torch
Travel sickness tablets – to be handed to Mrs Hoffmann
Other medicines – to matron

Waterproof jacket or cagoule
Waterproof trousers if possible
Wellingtons/walking boots
gloves and a scarf
old clothes for wet and muddy activities * (see note below)

2 jeans/trousers
2 tracksuit bottoms
2 sweatshirts/jumpers
indoor shoes or slippers
trainers or shoes
4 T-shirts
2 shirts
swim-wear

lots of socks and underwear
pyjamas/nightwear
Washbag: soap, shampoo, flannel, toothpaste/brush, comb, personal toiletries
One small and one large towel
plastic bags for laundry

fancy dress (French theme) and costumes for the talent show

* During one (very popular) activity (parcours de santé) the children become very mud-encrusted. Please send a set of very old track suit bottoms (holes included!) and old trainers for this so that the children can throw them away after the activity. If you would like them returned, please pack an extra large plastic bag.