

Dear Parents,

For many years it has been the school's policy to offer two residential opportunities for our pupils; these are each a week in length and take place during the summer term in Years 5 and 6. Two years ago, we decided that it would benefit the children if we could widen our residential experiences by offering our Year 4 children a 'taster' two day camp. We are aware that for some of our children the Year 5 residential is a first real break away from home; for most of our children this is not a problem. However, some children do initially worry about spending time as a class group away from home and school. The one night break, at a geographically close to home location, offers a good introduction to the whole idea of going away as a school group. Our experience from the last two years was so positive that we have decided to repeat this activity this year.

**Our Year 4 residential experience will take place at 'Danbury Outdoors' on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2010.**

Danbury Outdoors is an outdoor activity centre located to Danbury Park Primary School, covering several acres of land bordering the Danbury Lakes area. It is run by Essex County Council and therefore complies with all of the Council's Health and Safety requirements. For those of you interested at taking a closer look please feel free to visit their website at [www.danburyoutdoors.co.uk](http://www.danburyoutdoors.co.uk). Alternatively, they are always happy to show visitors around when they are open.

Many of you are already familiar with the courses and tutors at this centre. There are many benefits to extending a day camp into an overnight experience. I have already outlined our main objective for this visit, however, the activities that I plan during our stay will be chosen to specifically develop; team building; problem solving skills; learning new activities and challenging currently held skills; developing personal organisational skills and of course, being responsible for their own personal hygiene!

All the activities are led by fully trained staff and are run on a ration of no less than 1:10. We won't be exceeding this ratio as there are only 8 children in Year 4 and myself who will attend all of the sessions.

Some of the activities that are available are:

Climbing

Obstacle Course

Archery

Problem Solving

Canoeing/Kayaking

In addition to these activities, the children will be involved in laying out their bedding and organising their own personal space, sorting out their canteen area and agreeing rules for the stay.

Food and drinks will be prepared for us, but the children will be responsible for washing up and keeping the eating area clean.

The agreement is that there are eight pupils plus one adult staying in a log cabin. Sleeping arrangements will be 'fine tuned' closer to the visit.

The children will not attend school on either of these days; they will be dropped off and picked up at the centre – more detailed information will be given out closer to the visit.

The price of this residential covers all supervised, tutored activities catering requirements and log cabin costs. The cost will be £79.62. The sessions are longer as we have fewer children than previous years, so your children will benefit more the experience.

The true success of this experience relies on all of the children taking part. If your child is initially reluctant please come and discuss your concerns with me before agreeing with them that they do not have to join us. Alternatively, talk to any of the children (or their parents) in the current Year 5 Group who I know will happily tell you what a great time they all had and advertise the positive aspects of the trip far better than I ever could.

At this stage it would be useful for me to have an indication as to how many people are happy to support his visit. I would therefore appreciate it if you would fill in the attached form and return it to me as soon as possible so that I can confirm our reservation with Danbury Outdoors.

I have a wealth of experience with leading residential trips. Please feel free to come and ask me any questions regarding any of the issues that have been raised in the letter.

Mrs Barber