

18th March 2021



To: Parents of Pupils in Years 5 - 6

Dear Parents

The Mill Adventure Base
Wednesday 9th June – Friday 11th June 2021

As you may be aware, it has long been tradition that children in Year 5 and 6 go on their annual residential in the Summer term. For obvious reasons, this had to be cancelled last year and I know that the children were rather upset about this. However, I am delighted to tell you that if restrictions allow, we will now have the chance to visit The Mill Adventure Base once more!

During the past year, students have missed out on so much. Adventurous activities are a fantastic tool to use in rebuilding relationships and developing resilience and team work skills whilst trying something new and challenging yourself and I for one am very excited about the prospect of being able to go on the residential.

Safe and Secure:

The Notts Outdoors Team under the direction of the County's Outdoor education advisor, have been working tirelessly to ensure sure that they comply with up to date government guidelines and create the safest environment possible for us and our group. When attending The Mill, Hollygirt have the huge advantage that we are normally the only school on site, unlike much of the larger residential centres. Despite this, the Centre have a comprehensive list of strategies and measures that they have put in place to further enhance the safety of the site and the delivery of our chosen activities within the current climate. In addition to the social distancing measures, establishing of 'bubbles' and enhanced hygiene practices that the children are already familiar with, these are just a few of the controls that will also be in place:

Reducing contact

- Staggered use times for activities, toilets and changing rooms.
- Limiting numbers of groups and 'zoning' areas of use.

Minibus transportation

- Consideration of how participants are grouped together - this should reflect the groupings used in the school.
- Use of hand sanitiser when getting on and off transport.

Activities

- We will minimise the need for participants to share equipment.
- We will prevent the sharing of activity-based PPE (or safety equipment) if there is a risk of transmission.
- We have a clearly defined disinfecting/ quarantine routine in place for relevant equipment and cleaning contact surfaces before and after sessions and at pre-set intervals as defined in activity risk assessment.

Accommodation

- Accommodation facilities will be cleaned and sanitised prior to occupancy in accordance with industry guidelines.
- Any keys required by visiting staff will be sanitised with a disinfectant before arrival.
- Each accommodation facility will be inspected and approved for use by a member of the Senior on-site team.

Catering

- Only one group to be served at any one time.
- Chairs, tables and any other touch points will be sanitised between groups visiting the dining area.
- Cutlery and crockery will be cleaned immediately before being issued to individuals.
- Packed lunches to be eaten outside if prevailing weather conditions allow.
- All condiments to be dispensed by staff with no self-service available

About the Centre:

The Mill Adventure Base is a purpose built, urban adventure centre situated at Kings Mill Reservoir, Sutton in Ashfield. Children will be transported to and from the venue by minibuses, provided by The Mill centre. The base offers a multitude of adventure activities to suit all abilities and requirements. Whilst the final list is as yet undecided, in previous years we have completed activities such as: Water Sports, Team Games, Tunnelling, High Ropes and Bush Craft skills. Full safety talks and instruction is given for all of these and all equipment is provided.

Once again, we will be sleeping in Camping Pods within a secure area of the site and taking advantage of the carpeted floors, lights and soft mattresses: much more comfortable than tents! Staff will also be sleeping in their own Pods within the same area. Within the new health and safety guidelines, the children will be responsible for co-ordinating their own breakfast and lunch, whilst a hot evening meal will be provided each night – once again, this is under the strict guidelines for food provision, just as it is in school.

Benefits of the Residential:

Having had such an interrupted school year, I believe that this will be a most worthwhile experience for your child, academically, socially and personally. Just being away from home helps independence and self-reliance as the children have time to fall into a set routine and learn to take responsibility for themselves – e.g. getting to the activity on time, looking after their own clothes, preparing their own meals and learning to co-operate.... Something they may all need a little remaindering of after having spent so much time on a screen! As teachers, we feel that some of the more physically challenging activities are excellent for developing that self-confidence and self-esteem which might need a little extra bolstering, whilst the problem-solving activities are immensely beneficial in creating and maintaining a good team atmosphere.

Important Info:

The cost of the trip is £142, which includes transport to and from the site and the cost of all meals and activities. At this point in time, I would simply like to gauge parental response to this proposed trip and so, if you think your child would love to attend and that you give your permission, please sign the form below and return it to either myself or Mrs Atherton. Following this, I will be in communication again with regards to payment and other details.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate in getting in touch.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Keyworth
Year 6 Teacher



Hollygirt SCHOOL

The Mill Adventure Base Wednesday 9th – Friday 11^h June 2021

Child's Name: _____ Form: _____

I agree to my child taking part in The Mill Adventure Base residential trip from 9th – 11th June 2021 and to their participation in the range of activities provided. I acknowledge the need for obedience and responsible behaviour on their part. I understand that there is some level of risk in every activity but that this visit will be managed to minimise the risks involved.

I understand that The Notts Outdoors Team at The Mill Adventure Base has taken every precaution under the direction of the County's Outdoor education advisor to ensure sure that they comply with up to date government guidelines and create the safest environment possible for us and our group.

I believe my child to be medically fit to undertake this visit.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please return to Mrs Keyworth