



Thursday 30th January 2025

Dear Parent / Carer,

Year 5 Adventure Residential – Dewerstone Cottage 25th - 26th September 2025

It is a real pleasure to write to you about residential visits again. It feels like we are getting back into a routine of being able to offer families great opportunities for outdoor learning once more. At such an early stage (8 months in advance) it feels like a long way to go until residential visits take place, but believe me, the date will be here before we know it!

Following the success of previous years' visits, I am writing to give you important information about your child's next residential trip in September 2025 when they will be part of our Year 5 group that visits Dewerstone Cottage in Shaugh Prior.

The residential will last for two days and the night in between. Whilst away, the children will be making camp, cooking their dinner over open fires and demonstrating teamwork and outdoor skills to solve problems successfully. The activities really are a chance to learn more about ourselves, face up to a challenge and find out what it takes to be a successful team player.

Following the success of previous residential events, we are keen for all of our Year 5 children to have the opportunity to begin their next year at Haytor View in this fantastic setting. All of the activities take place in a safe and secure manner that all children can engage with. If your child has concerns about any of the elements of the stay, certain parts can be avoided if they wish. All of the instructors employed by Young Spirit are fully qualified and understand our school ethos so they are aware of our children's different needs and offer encouragement accordingly.

We are really keen to ensure that the trip is accessible to everyone and that we have as many children as possible joining us. With this in mind we have been working hard with Mark Reeves from Young Spirit to keep costs down, and as well as that, we are sharing arrangements with you as early as possible again this year so that you can have longer to pay for the trip. This unique experience should be something that lives long in the memory and provides a great way to spend time with classmates at the start of Year 5. In order to meet the costs of the trip, we are seeking from parents a

contribution of **£95 plus the cost of coach travel for each child (£19.16) making a total of £114.16 to pay**. We amended the length of this trip a couple of years ago to make it more affordable to families during the current difficult economic period but still managed to negotiate all of the great activities into a shorter visit. We can offer this fantastic value for money trip, thanks to a very understanding approach from Young Spirit - they have supported us again to keep the cost of residential visits as manageable as possible (especially when the cost of everything else is increasing enormously.) What's more, we always ensure that maximum value for money is received by parents/carers and the children who take part in the activities – our long-term relationship with Spirit of Adventure allows us to make sure that this is the case.

The amount may be paid in instalments from April 1st - or as a lump sum – whichever is most convenient. **Sadly we are not able to take any children on the residential trips if full payment for the trip has not been received before we leave.** With this in mind we'd encourage you to take advantage of the instalment system and pay in smaller, more manageable amounts if this is helpful - there is still a lot of time left before we go. Procedures will be set up in school and our office will be prepared to accept payments from April 1st.

We have confirmed a visit by Mark Reeves to our school from **2.45-3.15pm on Wednesday 5th February** in our school hall to talk to parents/carers about this residential visit and that being offered to our future Year 6 children. Please come along to find out more details, have a look at some photos and ask any questions you may have about the trips.

I would be grateful if you could complete the reply slip confirming whether you plan for your child to take part in the trip, along with details of how you plan to make payments to meet the cost of the residential.

We look forward to enjoying another memorable residential visit and are pleased to be able to rely on your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Graeme Hankin
Senior Leader