



Whitstable Junior School

Oxford Street, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1DB

Tel: (01227) 272385

Headteacher: Mrs. Annie Knoupe BA (Hons) PGCE

e-mail: manager@whitstable-junior.kent.sch.uk

Monday 12th November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

As promised I am writing to you to try to explain why the decision had to be made to cancel the Swattenden Year 4 Residential Trip and Activity Week in May next year. I would like to reassure parents that this was not a decision that could have been anything other than cancelling the trip. The decision was unavoidable due to the fact that we did not have enough children who wanted to go. We did extend the final date for deposits but this did not make any difference. I understand that some parents feel that the trip was not marketed enough this year and this may have had a detrimental impact on the numbers. For this I really apologise.

We spent many Senior Leadership Meetings discussing the threat of Swattenden having to be cancelled and tried to come up with variety of solutions. However none seemed viable.

As part of the discussions we looked back on previous years and noticed an increasing fall in the number of children taking part in the residential trips, both in year 4 and year 6. Historically the activity weeks have taken place to ensure that those children who cannot go or do not wish to go can have a fun experience while their peers are away. This used to be about 10-15 children. This meant we could provide an inexpensive set of activities for those children to access, with 1 teacher and 1 LSA providing the supervision. When these numbers start exceeding the numbers going on the residential it is not possible to provide the same inexpensive experiences and we don't have the number of staff to supervise the activities. This is why activity week could not happen as an alternative.

We are heartbroken that we have disappointed the children. If I could turn back the clock, I would have asked for an expression of interest in July, and then if the trip was not feasible we could have cancelled without children thinking they were going.

We have every intention of building as many experiences as possible for the children into their curriculum during year 4. We have just secured some dates for visits to a forest school which involves team building activities and zip-wiring.

We hope you will remind your child that they still have the Year 6 residential to look forward to and maybe the year they go will see all of their peers taking part with them. How fabulous would that be?

I hope this goes some way to explaining why Swattenden was cancelled. I am also so sorry that I made assumptions that in some way you would know all of this without me telling you. If you require any more explanation please just give me a ring and I'll be happy to have a chat.

Yours sincerely,

Annie Knoupe
Headteacher

