



Whitstable Junior School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to let you know that the decision has been made to cease having a Year 4 Residential Trip and Activity Week. You may be aware that this year's Year 4 residential trip was cancelled. This decision was unavoidable due to the fact that we did not have enough children who wanted to go.

We have been keeping an eye on numbers over the 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 have just had the uptake numbers for 2020 Year 6 residential and it is not even half the number of children. This has confirmed that our decision to withdraw a Year 4 residential is the right thing to do. We very much hope that this will mean that those year groups who have not had a residential experience in Year 4 will be able to take up the experience in Year 6. This will mean we have many more children all able to go on the same exciting adventure.

Our intention is to provide a variety of experiences that the children would experience on residential through our rich curriculum. We have so far been able to this with "forest school" trips which we aim to build on.

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 we have taken this decision.

Yours sincerely,

Annie Knoupe
Headteacher

