



Whitstable Junior School

Oxford Street, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1DB Tel: (01227) 272385

Headteacher: Mrs. Annie Knoupe BA (Hons) PGCE, NPQH

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

6th June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter. We have just received a phone call from Kingswood (Grosvenor Hall), the residential centre Year 6 were attending next week, and have been told that our booking has been cancelled by them. This means that the Year 6 Residential next week to Kingswood can no longer go ahead. We have been told that they have cancelled all residentials there due to the centre having staffing problems. See an extract from a letter just emailed through to us;

It is an unthinkable situation for us all and goes against everything we aspire to be – however our commitment is to deliver the best possible quality in the safest environment and, as a consequence of severe staffing challenges, we simply cannot guarantee those two elements.

We currently have 140 team members awaiting DBS clearance, many of them for up to six weeks. This process is entirely outside of our control; we have waited in good faith for the government departments responsible to clear the backlog, but they haven't. And that is why we are in this situation.

We are completely stunned that this could happen and will be making our disappointment known to the company in no uncertain words. We have not told the children this as we wanted you to know first and be able to tell the children yourselves so you can be there to comfort them. We completely appreciate how upsetting this will be. Tomorrow we will gather the children together to explain what has happened and to enable them to ask any questions.

At this moment in time, we are unsure how we will proceed in terms of providing experiences for the children as we have been given such little notice by the company. However, we will do our utmost to sort something out. This may mean activity week for children who were not going on the residential will be affected too.

We have been told the school will be fully refunded and as soon as we receive this, we will refund you. We are all so sorry and cannot believe this has happened and will support the children who will be disappointed as much as we possibly can.

Warm regards,
Annie Knoupe
Headteacher

