

# Half Acres Primary Academy

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Head Teacher: Mrs R Taylor

**Part of the Inspire Partnership Multi Academy Trust**



Dear Parent/Carer

10<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

## Change in Location for Residential Trip 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022

I am writing to you to inform you of a small change in the location for our Residential trip in July. Due to the significant impact of Covid-19 on the outdoor experience and trips industry, centres are experiencing a 2/3 loss in available staff. Shortly before the Half Term, our original provider, Low Mill, made us aware that they have been affected so significantly by this industry-wide shortage of staff that they have had to close for the remainder of 2022 and cancel their bookings until next year.

As you are well aware, the Year 6 team and the Half Acres Staff remain absolutely dedicated to providing a fantastic end-of-year Residential experience for the children. In full disclosure, it has been a particularly difficult task to source another centre with availability so late in the year, as most centres have been booked far in advance. However, we are so pleased to announce that through a lot of research and eleventh-hour phone calls - we have been able to secure another centre for exactly the same dates! Rather than visiting Low Mill this year, we will be visiting the fabulous Willersley Castle in Matlock-Bath, where the children will have exclusive access to an entire 65-acre estate and stay in a beautiful protected-class castle. Some of the activities that I have organised as part of our trip's package for the children include Kayaking, Grass Sledding, Bush Craft (outdoor kitchen, fire making, shelter-building), Archery, Low Ropes and Climbing, a Disco, a visit to Cromford Mills, and a half-day walk through the beautiful natural scenery of Matlock-Bath and a trip into the local town for sightseeing!

Unfortunately, due to the unforeseen change in provider, the cost of the trip has increased slightly - by £18. We are truly sorry to raise the price of the trip at this time and sincerely hope you accept our apologies about the lateness of this request. We hope that you can understand that the circumstances were simply out of our control and that we have done everything in our power to find a suitable alternative in such a limited amount of time.

Your £50 deposits which have already been paid are safe and have been refunded by Low Mill. These will be paid over to our new provider directly by school.

**The Head of School is the designated person for all child protection issues**

We can only sincerely apologise for the change in location of the trip at this time and the increase in cost, but having visited Willersley Castle myself last week, I can genuinely say that I was blown away by both the quality of the accommodation available for the children and the size and amenities on the grounds themselves. I am absolutely certain that the centre will provide the perfect setting for our Year 6 Residential and some very special, lasting memories for the children.

Please look out for the Residential Packs which will be sent home with the children soon, with all the relevant information needed to prepare for our exciting trip!

If you have any questions regarding the change in location, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

I thank you, as always, for your support and understanding.

Kind regards,

Miss Othacehe

