



The Federation of Mowden Schools (Academy Trust)

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15th October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 6 Residential Visit: Dearne Valley Activity Centre

A three-day residential for children who will be in Year 6 next year will take place between **Wednesday 10th and Friday 12th September 2025**. The children will stay at the Dearne Valley Activity Centre, Denaby Main, near Doncaster. The centre is owned by Kingswood, a company we have worked with many times. This will be the tenth time that we have visited Dearne Valley.

The residential is a key part of the Y6 curriculum and one which has been enjoyed by many children over the years. One of the reasons we like to go in the autumn term is that it gives teachers and children a chance to get to know each other at the start of an important year for them. The Y6 teachers will also build on the experiences that the children have while they are away.

Some children (and parents) may be nervous about staying away from home; this is another reason we go as it helps to prepare them for things changing as they transition to secondary school. Surviving (and enjoying!) experiences we might initially be unsure of helps to build confidence and resilience. Therefore, all children should attend unless there is a genuine reason why they can not. I would like to encourage all children to be part of this worthwhile educational experience.

I will hold an information evening virtually on **Tuesday 12th November at 6:00pm**. Lasting approximately half an hour, this will provide more details regarding the centre we are visiting and the activities planned. There may also be an opportunity to ask questions. The meeting will be held using Google Meet. A meeting invite will be sent in advance to all Y5 children using their school email account; the link will also be posted on their Google Classroom. Follow the link for that meeting on the evening. Please make sure you are logged in as the child in order to access the meeting. Children are welcome to watch, however I will also discuss the trip with them in school so their attendance isn't necessary.

The total cost of the trip will be **£228** including coach travel. This is only a slight increase when compared with the trip made this year; informing parents of the trip this early will hopefully help spread the cost over a longer period for those who require it.

Payment can be made through ParentMail and can be made in one lump sum, instalments or in smaller amounts on a more regular basis if families prefer. A deposit of **£50** will be required no later than **Monday 3rd February 2025**. A second instalment of **£89** will be required no later than **Friday 11th April 2025**. The final balance of **£89** will be required no later than **Friday 4th July 2025**. Unfortunately, due to Kingswood policy, all payments are non-refundable. *If you have difficulty in paying for the school residential, or would like an alternative payment plan, please contact either Mrs Jobling or myself so we can arrange to discuss this with you confidentially.*

I would be grateful if by **Monday 6th January 2025** you could complete the form on ParentMail to confirm that you would like your child to attend and will make the initial payment.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Johnson

Deputy Head Teacher

Mowden Infant School, Bushel Hill Drive, Darlington, DL3 9QG

Mowden Junior School, Conyers Avenue, Darlington, DL3 9DE