



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Friday 12th March 2021

Dear Parents,

It seems a strange letter to be writing given the restrictions we have been living under for the last year. However, we are starting to think ahead and plan for future events and the school annual ski trip is one residential that has already been provisionally booked. A decision had to be made fairly quickly due to the overwhelming interest in school ski trips for 2022.

This is a very popular residential and one that has been attended by many children and parents over the last few years. The trip will be open to all children who are in Years 4, 5 & 6 next academic year as well as any parents wishing to join them. We will also be allowing children from this year's current Year 6 who were booked on last year's trip to attend if parents wish for them to still be included.

We are fortunate to have a very good relationship with Skibound, an extremely reputable national company who are not only highly recommended, but whom were very supportive and reassuring when our ski trip was cancelled last year with less than 48 hours' notice due to the pandemic.

Unfortunately, the hotel that we have stayed in on all previous ski trips no longer belongs to Skibound but another resort and hotel has been highly recommended as being ideal for beginners and younger skiers. So next year, we will be going to Hotel Frejus in Serre Chevalier in the French Alps which is owned by Skibound and which caters specifically for school groups. Please be reassured that I will be visiting the resort and hotel prior to the trip taking place so that full risk assessments can be completed and all security and safeguarding measures can be put in place. I will then be in a much better position to be able to answer more detailed questions. However, having done my own research into this, I am very confident that this will be an ideal hotel and resort for our children.

The visit will take place from Saturday 15th January 2022 to Saturday 22nd January 2022. The cost of the trip will be £1060 for children and £1,180 for adults which, whilst is an awful lot of money, remains extremely good value for a first class ski resort at the time of year we will be travelling. This price includes the return flight, fully comprehensive insurance, full board accommodation with en-suite facilities, breakfast, lunch and evening meal in the hotel, ski, boot and helmet hire, 4 hours a day ski instruction for 6 days, ski test and certificate, lift pass and some apres ski activities such as a disco, quiz, bum-boarding, games etc and a hoodie for the children. Skibound have tried very hard to keep their prices down, but there has inevitably been another increase to the prices for 2022.

Skibound are adopting a 'Book with Confidence' approach to support schools and make some guarantees to us which include:

- Full refund until 30th September 2021 if the whole group has to pull out
- Full refund if the DfE advise against residential trips in the 60 days before departure
- Full refund if quarantine is required in your intended destination on arrival or on return in the 14 days before departure
- Full refund if our group are affected by local or national lockdown measures in the 14 days before departure
- Full refund if the FCO advise against all but essential travel in the 14 days before departure

During our time at the resort, there is very little opportunity to spend money and the only extra money required will be for drinks and snacks during the day. Therefore, we suggest no more than £100 spending money.

Please note, it is not compulsory at all for parents to accompany their child. This is a school trip and school staff will be accompanying the children and have full responsibility for the children during the visit. However, we do open this trip up to parents if they wish to accompany us as it is also an opportunity for them to ski at a very

competitive price. Any parents accompanying the party will be required to complete a DBS check (police check) prior to the visit taking place.

It is likely that the staff accompanying the children will be as planned as last time – myself, Mr Stoker and Mr Graham.

I realise that this is a very expensive school residential. Unfortunately, skiing is an expensive hobby. However, many parents have said in the past that they could never afford for the family to go skiing but they wanted their child to have the experience. We also try to organise the trip as early as possible so that the cost can be spread over the year too.

Non-refundable Deposits are to be paid in instalments as follows through ParentPay:

- First deposit of: £100 by Friday 16th April 2021
- Second deposit of: £100 by Friday 28th May 2021
- Third deposit of: £100 by Friday 9th July 2021
- Fourth deposit of: £200 by Friday 3rd September 2021
- Fifth deposit of: £200 by Friday 22nd October 2021
- Sixth deposit of: £200 by Friday 26th November 2021
- Final balance of: £160 by Friday 17th December (£280 for adults)

If there are insufficient numbers of children from our school wishing to participate in this visit and the trip does not take place, the first deposit of £100 will be refunded. We will inform you once the first date for due deposits has passed, whether the trip will go ahead. However, I have already had a number of parents approach me who have expressed an interest in the trip so am sure that this will not be an issue.

Once the trip has been confirmed, a meeting will be held before the end of the summer term to answer further questions and to clarify the details.

Please pay the £100 non-refundable deposit by Friday 16th April 2021 in order to secure a place on this trip. Thank you.

If you have any further questions about this trip, please do not hesitate to contact me at school or email me at: j.davis@lanchesterep.net.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
(Head Teacher)