

CANON POPHAM CofE PRIMARY ACADEMY

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Thursday 15th April 2021

Dear Parents,

I am sure that by now you are wondering what will be happening with regard to the Year 6 PGL residential visit which is currently scheduled for June, and therefore I am writing to you about this. The DfE issued new guidance at the time of the Easter break and unfortunately we still do not have a very clear picture.

The current guidance says that as of today the advice is still that visits should not go ahead. They may be possible after 17th May, but this is not guaranteed and is subject to change dependent on the situation at the time and the COVID data. If any visits were to be able to go ahead they would also be subject to whatever COVID guidance measures were applicable for schools at that time.

Along with very many schools, including those in our Trust, we have been carefully considering the guidance we have currently and what the safest options are.

Regretfully, the decision has therefore had to be taken that we will have to cancel the visit this year. This decision has not been taken lightly, and as you know we have waited and rearranged more than once in the hope that it would be able to go ahead if at all possible.

Some of the reasons for taking the decision now are:

- We feel we cannot leave it any longer in terms of planning and risk assessment, and we are unable to do this as thoroughly as we need to given that we do not have any definitive guidance on whether the visits will be allowed, or what the restrictions and guidance is likely to be at the time
- If the visit were to be able to go ahead there may have to be a range of adaptations in light of COVID guidance. As the residential is an expensive visit, we feel that to ensure value for money we would want the children to get the best possible experience, and at the moment we are not clear on what would or would not be possible at that time. We would not want their visit experience to be compromised.
- If we wait longer, and the trip was to go ahead, it would be very short notice for parents to pay as full payment has to be received for every child 2 weeks before the visit. We understand that this is a lot to expect in a short time.
- Should a member of staff or pupil become symptomatic whilst they were away, the logistics of safely responding to this would be challenging and cause worry for everyone involved..
- We are very mindful that, as current guidance is still that visits aren't possible, even if the guidance changes at a later date, some parents and children may be anxious about the visit and it going ahead at that time.

We do understand that both children and parents may be disappointed. All of the staff in school are equally disappointed that this visit is unable to go ahead, but we hope that you will understand the reasons why this is not possible this year.

We are able to refund all monies paid and will contact you with more details about this as soon as possible, but I felt it important to let you know what was happening as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support and understanding
Mrs Navas

