



13th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

ACTIVITY FUND

Annually we ask parents to make a one-off payment into our Activity Fund. The school uses this money to fund various in-school activities which the children thoroughly enjoy, such as drama productions, experiences such as Chicks Hatching, cooking throughout the year and workshops e.g. Brazilian Dancing.

We are delighted to be able to keep the contribution at **£15 for the whole year** (this has not been increased for the last 11 years). This contribution represents excellent value for money, providing children with a good range of extra-curricular experiences that the school would not otherwise be able to provide.

Please note that this contribution does NOT include any visits that take place off site e.g. Ewell Grove Games, Residential or Summer term visits.

RESIDENTIAL AND SUMMER TERM VISITS

At the beginning of the school year we also spend significant time and resources focussing on planning and booking the schedule of educational/residential experiences and visits across all year groups. Schools, like households, are grappling with trying to balance finances that are being particularly impacted by rising energy bills.

To be clear, residential and summer term visits are not an essential part of the curriculum. However, many of us would agree that the opportunities and memories that come from them are priceless. Even acknowledging this however, there will undoubtedly be a spectrum of views concerning the associated costs; which will likely range from 'fantastic value' to 'the last thing' needed for current family finances.

Ewell Grove has already committed to some costs e.g. deposits that are non-refundable. There are also elements of cost that will be unknown until nearer the time i.e. coach costs are currently only provisional because of the volatility of fuel prices. In an endeavour to keep costs low, particularly for residential visits, Ewell Grove has committed to predominately using the Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development centres (SOLD). By doing this not only are the costs lower, but we try to invest in the centres to ensure they stay viable for future years of children to benefit from. However, the nature of the activities available e.g. kayaking and climbing, come with an extra cost due to the safety equipment and qualified staffing required.

The purpose of this letter is to gauge parental support for these additional costs across 2022/23, so that we can work out if we can financially continue to offer them. Although Ewell Grove would already lose out financially if what we have booked to date were cancelled, the committed deposits are still small compared to the total expenditure needed if places were not filled.

PUPIL PREMIUM

The £15 contribution for the Activity Fund is covered for all children eligible for Pupil Premium; this cost will be covered by the school. From Year 3 onwards children can partake in residential trips; Pupil Premium funding is used to contribute 50% of the cost. You can find a copy of our Pupil Premium Statement [here](#).

Detailed below are the expenditures for 2022/23 for Year 4 children:

YEAR 4		
2022/23 Expenditure	*Indicative Cost	*Price once Pupil Premium has been applied
Activity Fund	£15 per child	£0
High Ashurst – 2 nights (challenge course, woodland skills, climbing, night walk, ropes)	£160 per child	£80

*These costs are subject to change

You will be sent a Parentmail form today, which we are asking all parents to complete. The purpose of the form is to gauge parental feedback on proposed expenditure for Residential and Summer Term visits this academic year. Please can you ensure that the form is completed by no later than **Friday 16th September**.

Yours faithfully

Kate Keane

Mrs Kate Keane
Headteacher