



KV10AT

June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Geography Fieldtrip to the Yorkshire Dales – Thursday 4 July 2024

I am delighted to offer details of a forthcoming Geography Fieldtrip on Thursday 4 July 2024 to Clapham and Ingleborough in the Yorkshire Dales. This trip is not compulsory but will give your child/ward an insight into an interesting aspect of physical geography – limestone landscapes. It is a great day out into a very beautiful part of the UK countryside. **The trip will leave West Kirby at 9:00am prompt (please meet in the dining room at 8:45am) and return around 8:00pm, travelling by coaches.** The theme for the day is “An environment worth keeping”.

The day starts with a walk from the village of Clapham to the cave system of Ingleborough. We will walk in the area around the cave looking at the fantastic landscapes that make up the limestone scenery of the Yorkshire Dales. This work will include an underground guided tour of the Ingleborough show caves. Here a well-laid concrete path allows us to view the fabulous displays of calcite flows, stalactites, and stalagmites. The walk from the coach to the show caves takes about 40 minutes with further time discovering the surrounding area and eating lunch. Following the cave visit we will walk up onto the Pennines to view the incredible Gaping Gill and nearby limestone pavement.

I appreciate that this is quite a long and active day and so suggest that your child/ward brings a generous packed lunch and tea, has plenty of liquids to drink throughout the day, and has good waterproofs. There will be an opportunity to purchase drinks/ice creams at various times during the day, plus a rock/crystal souvenir at the caves, so a small amount of money may be necessary. We will hope to make our usual stop at McDonalds near Clitheroe on the way back because of the length of the day so bringing money for that will be useful.

We will be using recognised paths to walk on throughout the day, however, your child/ward must wear suitable strong footwear. Trainers (with the laces tied correctly) are suitable but **walking boots will offer much more protection to the ankle** if you have them. The vagaries of the UK weather will also mean that your child/ward will need a good waterproof or coat. A kit list is attached to help you. Please understand that the essential items are checked before we leave and **if your child/ward does not have suitable footwear and waterproof then we will not be able to take them** because of the risks involved. I would advise this trip is sadly not suited for those who experience walking difficulties.

The cost of the day is £27 (£20 to cover the cost of the coaches and £7 for the guided cave tour). This is just £1 more than last year and the previous time the trip was run in 2018. If you would like your child/ward to attend, please make an online payment using Scopay. The number of places for this non-compulsory visit are limited to just 88 and will be allocated on a first- come, first-served basis. The trip is open to any in Year 9 student, regardless of whether they are studying geography next year.

Yours sincerely

Mr K R Vane
Head of Geography

The school has a blanket School Journey Insurance policy in place to provide appropriate cancellation, curtailment, medical and personal possessions cover. This policy also carries very limited personal accident insurance cover for pupils. As the School will not be liable for any injury arising from incidents beyond our direct control, parents/carers may wish to consider purchasing their own personal accident cover to enhance the limited protection of this policy.

Kit List – Geography Fieldtrip to Clapham, Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Essential Items

Please be aware that this is an upland terrain and the following items are listed for reasons of your child's/ward's safety. Given the location we have experienced significant rain at times during the day and so it is important that everyone is prepared. This will ensure your child/ward has an enjoyable day out.

Good strong footwear Trainers with the laces tied are acceptable but walking boots will offer more protection to the ankle if you have them. All footwear will be individually checked prior to the trip; this involves ensuring that the footwear has good grip on the sole. **Converse trainers are not suitable** because of the thinness of the tread. Wellington boots should not be worn.

Good waterproof How waterproof is your child's/ward's waterproof? Students are advised to **wear the waterproof in the shower** to find out just how dry they will be if it rains on the day. Every year there is someone who discovers their waterproof is not up to task while it is raining. Ensure the waterproof has a hood because wet hair can make you feel unwell. We are not in a town and so once we start walking there will be no shelter anywhere on the walk. Limestone areas are very beautiful but have very few trees. It is best to be prepared.

Packed lunch & tea Please bring a packed lunch and a plastic bottle of water with this in a leak proof container. Be aware **there are no litter bins** and all the packaging will have to be brought home. No glass bottles.

Sun cream Because we are always optimistic that the weather will be good! Do consider a hat or baseball cap if your child/ward burns easily and a t-shirt rather than strappy top to cover those shoulders.

Other items

Waterproof trousers These are useful if you have them. If it is dry on the day you can leave these in the coach.

Waterproof bag To keep your lunch, worksheets and equipment dry you will need a bag. A normal bag or small rucksack with a plastic bag inside will be suitable.

A clip board A bulldog clip and piece of hardboard would be fine.

Pen & pencil

A black bin bag or something to sit on if it is wet

Spare clothing This can be left in a bag on the coach. If the weather is wet then it is always a good idea to have spare clothes to put on during the day. Umbrellas are not suitable given the mountainous terrain and sometimes strong winds – it is always better to have the correct clothing.

No denim material clothing (e.g. jeans) should be worn as this does not dry quickly if it gets wet. Cotton or tracksuit trousers are much better.

Please note that parents/carers are responsible for providing adequate waterproofs and suitable footwear for this activity. We do have some spare (limited numbers) in school and would ask that these are requested in good time before the event. Please do not leave it to the day before or the day itself, but please **do not** let this be the reason for your child/ward not attending.