

7<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Dear Parents & Carers,

**Re: French Residential Visit June 2018**

I know that **June 2018** seems a very long way away at the moment - but that is mainly why I am writing to you **NOW**. For eight years we have run a **residential visit to Normandy, France** for **Year 6** pupils. The visit very much supports the work that the children undertake in the classroom in their '**Life in Britain since the 1930s**' history unit of work. As Year 6 only has one class, we are not able to secure the best price possible for Tower Hill children without the partnership of another school which I am delighted to say will be Newlands Primary School from Yateley for the fifth year. This obviously does mean that we join with children and adults from another school on the venture but this has proved a complete success to date - and I have no doubt will continue to be so!

In order to not lose the possibility of space at the accommodation centre where we stay, I have provisionally booked 'a slot' for us to leave on the morning of **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June** and return on the evening of **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017** for a **five day/four night stay**.

Due to the falling strength of the pound to the euro, we have had to increase the price to **£410** this year but this will include all travel, meals, accommodation and admission charges to events. I know in the very difficult economic climate this is a substantial amount of money to consider paying, however to try to help you make your decision, this does actually work out at approximately £8 per week if amounts were put away from next week!

The children stay in an extremely well cared for brick built accommodation centre in the small Normandy village of Asnelles, not far from the town of Arromanches, site of Gold Landing Beach in World War II. Sleeping arrangements are 4-6 (single-sex!) children per room. All rooms are en suite so that the children only share toilet and shower facilities with their friends in their own room. The site is marvellously located and ideally situated for trips around both Normandy and Brittany. The restaurant offers sea views, with the beach being literally across the promenade.

The teaching staff, which will include myself, are allocated rooms amongst the children. **AT ALL TIMES**, apart from when they are actually asleep, the children are supervised by the accompanying members of staff. I have run residential visits to France for over 20 years and must assure you that your child's safety and happiness are paramount.

Only pocket money would be in addition. Much nearer the time, we arrange a system whereby we exchange a set amount of pocket money for the children and distribute it daily during the visit. This ensures that the children have money each day for those 'special mementos' that they will want to bring back for you rather than spending all they have at our first place of interest!

A Collective Passport is arranged by the school, on which children who were born in the European Community can be entered. This is at no additional cost. For those children who WERE NOT born in the E.C., provided that a full passport from their country of birth is held and permission for residency in Britain is indicated in it, no further arrangements are necessary and they would be able to take part in the visit.

In order to secure this price, **we need to take a minimum of 40 children** - which we do not have in our single class year groups hence seeking a partner school so that this number of children - and thus this price - can be achieved. After the **initial deposit of £30**, payments can be made in stages which we will record on a Savings Card for you. I am writing to you about the visit now to create the longest time possible to 'pay off' the cost in stages. Throughout the coming months I will inform you of interim deadlines for subsequent payments.

If the number of children taking part falls below **40** before the visit, the Tour Operator does increase the charge, so **PLEASE** check whether any moves or circumstances are 'in the pipeline' which could result in you withdrawing your child. This could have a price impact on ALL children.

***\*\*The reservation is being held until Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and therefore I do need to know the level of uptake for the trip by that date. That does not mean you have to pay all of the money by then - just the £30 deposit!!***

I understand that, whilst very exciting for the children, you as parents and guardians may have issues or concerns which you would like clarified. Please do not hesitate to contact me, preferably at the end of the school day, if you would like to discuss any points.

Very best regards,

**Mrs. Linda Tansley**  
**Headteacher/Visit Organiser**

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**To: Mrs.L.Tansley,Tower Hill Primary School,Fowler Road,Farnborough,GU14 0BW**

I wish my child \_\_\_\_\_ to take part in the proposed Residential Visit to France in **June 2018**.

**\*I enclose \*cash/cheque (made payable to *Tower Hill Primary School*) for the first deposit of **£30.00** or**

**\*I will send this in by \_\_\_\_\_ (required by **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017** at the latest to secure the visit).**

I understand that, in the event of insufficient support for the trip, my deposit will be returned to me, but that it is **non-refundable once figures merit the trip taking place (40) and is a firm commitment to my child participating.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_