

Woodlands and Everdon Trips

After the Government released further guidance last week in readiness for a return to school for all children in September, we have adjusted our plans for both our Everdon and Woodlands residential trips. Under this new guidance, non-residential trips are allowed to restart from September but residential overnight stays are not yet permitted.

We know at school how important these trips are in terms of developing the 'whole child' and in particular the fostering of independence for our older pupils. We had anticipated that the news in last week's announcement may not have been the positive outcome we were looking for and had therefore been proactive in looking for some kind of alternative provision.

In the case of our Everdon trip we had already decided that expecting a group of children that had been out of school for this extended period of time, to return to school in September and then shortly after go away on a residential, might be a bit much to ask – for both parents and pupils. We have therefore, managed to arrange a slightly shorter one and a half day (one-night) stay for each of the groups in the early part of May 2021. Further detail will follow once we have returned to school in September.

In the case of the Year 6 Woodlands trip, I know that the outdoor education sector are lobbying the government to change the guidance so that trips can go ahead. We have therefore kept our September date in the diary in the hope that there will be a turn around on that decision. We have however also managed to secure an alternative. Although Woodlands is fully booked for the rest of the year, there are another two centres within the Oxfordshire group and we have managed to secure a date in early February (Bbbrrrr!!) at Kilvrough Outdoor Centre. This centre is very close to Woodlands and involves very similar activities, some even at the same venues.

We will send out more venue specific information regarding Kilvrough as soon as we can but are excited that we have managed to secure another chance for the residential to go ahead.

In both of the cases above, we are really left at the mercy of Government guidance, but are hopeful that the additional time now gained by finding alternatives will give time for guidance to change and will allow our children to experience these important residential trips.