



# Elmwood Junior School

Headteacher: Mr Chris Marston BSc (Hons) PGCE NPQH

Elmwood Junior School, Lodge Road, Croydon, CR0 2PL

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Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October

## Year 6 High Ashurst Residential Trip Monday 15<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Re: Residential Trip to High Ashurst Outdoor Education Centre.**

It has come to my attention that there are many parents who have concerns about the up-and-coming residential trip. I would like to persuade you that this trip is an excellent opportunity for your child which will have huge benefits going forwards. The purpose of the trip is to be a celebration for all their hard work once they have finished SATs, as well as three key life skill components

1. Developing independence for your child
2. Learning to develop greater team building skills in a very different context
3. Learning how to develop confidence individually and work through fears

This trip is also an opportunity to create memories which will stay with your child for a lifetime.





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I would like to share some of the more general questions that have been raised.

## Why is the trip so expensive?

Comparable to other schools' Year 6 trips this trip is much cheaper – normally you can expect it to cost at least £400. If you are in financial challenges at this time we would love to help. Please do come and speak to myself confidentially – or send a message in an email.

## What's so special about High Ashurst?

I have personally led over 5 different school trips over the last few years to High Ashurst. It has outstanding facilities - purpose built, and an excellent staff who lead each activity in small groups. I can genuinely say that of the hundreds of children that have attended High Ashurst, I have never heard of any child not enjoying the experience.

## My child has never left home before, how will they cope?

I believe that developing independence is essential for the well being of all children – especially as they will be in Secondary School within a few months. Their experience of High Ashurst will help provide the confidence to tackle better the fears of starting a new school. One suggestion I always make is that if your child has never been away from home that you arrange a sleep over with a friend to help them experience being away of the home.

## Is it safe?

Ensuring the safety of your child on this trip is the absolute priority in all planning and preparation. The following points emphasise the safety of this trip;

- The site is completely safe within a large compound.
- There will be no point where the children are not supervised by an adult.





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- The staff from High Ashurst are highly experienced and qualified and develop excellent positive working relationships with the children.
- Every single activity is extensively assessed under Risk Assessments.
- All Elmwood staff attending will be attending pre visits to be fully inducted into how the trip works.
- Behaviour must be exemplary at all times.
- All the main activities are done in small groups of no more than 10 children and 2 adults

As you can see, I am passionate about allowing all Elmwood children to engage in this important residential trip as I believe it will benefit your child immensely.

I am happy to discuss any concerns that you may have.

Kind regards

Mr Marston

Head teacher

