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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am aware that the changes to this year's Year 6 residential has provoked some questions and discussions alongside support of the changes. I am writing to explain the reasons behind why the residential has been shortened from 4 nights / 5 days to 2 nights/ 3 days.

As you are aware, the school has historically taken our Year 6 pupils on a 5 day / 4 night residential. This centre was excellent and provided lots of opportunities for the children to experience and flourish. This centre was also based in Shropshire and this often resulted in staff and pupils not getting back until around 7pm on the Friday evening. As I'm sure you can appreciate, after the children and staff being away for a whole week, this lateness of arriving back, due to traffic, was not ideal for all concerned. Due to this we looked at an alternative centre.

Last year, we used Kingswood as a provider and visited their Dearne Valley centre for 4 nights / 5 days also. There were a number of issues that we, as a school, were not entirely happy with at this centre, so we again looked for an alternative provider. We were very fortunate that Robin Wood were able to accommodate us this year as they are usually fully booked long in advance.

There were also a number of children who were very unsettled throughout the 5 day course and some children who were so unsettled that had to be picked up by their parents. It was felt that a shorter residential would be beneficial to those children who may have anxiety about being away from home.

The 3 day / 2 night course is very action packed and is at a different centre than the one visited in Year 5; albeit still in Todmorden. The children will be taking part in water-sporting activities and activities different to those encountered on the Y5 trip. In actual fact, the Y6 children this year will access 14 activities over 3 days compared to 15 activities at Kingswood over 5 days - only 1 activity less. This proves to be excellent value for money as the 3 day course is around £100 cheaper. The cost was also a factor which was considered. Any residential is an expensive trip for parents to fund and we try exceptionally hard to ensure any funds we are asking parents to contribute to are good value for money. The coach costs, of course, are much cheaper; travelling to Todmorden instead of further afield. The BSA fund the coach cost, therefore this reduction in costs benefits the children in the school as a whole.

I hope that this clarifies the decisions taken by the school.

Kind regards,

Mrs Becky Schofield
Headteacher

Working with the Diocese of Leeds and the Metropolitan Borough of Calderdale

