



Tuesday 6th November 2018

France Residential Trip

Dear Parents and Carers,

Pupils at Churchfields learn French as part of the school curriculum in Key Stage 2. This year in October, for the second year, seventy six Year 5 pupils spent five days in France on a residential trip and returned bursting with excitement, enthusiasm and stories regarding all they had experienced, and with improved competence in speaking and understanding French. After another successful visit, we are pleased to offer this immersive language experience again in October/November 2019 and I write to you to invite you to an information meeting on Tuesday 13th November at 8.00 am in the school hall.

KEY INFORMATION

Dates: 5 days from Monday to Friday in October/November 2019 (specific dates to be confirmed soon)

Cost: £360, which is inclusive of travel, accommodation, food and activities

Payments: Payments can be made in 3 instalments. ParentPay will be open for payments of £120 to reserve a place on Wednesday 14th November at 4.00 pm.

Accommodation

We shall be staying again at a hotel called Moulin-aux-Draps <http://www.voyagerschooltravel.com/school-tours-europe/school-trips-france/school-trips-to-voyagers-moulin-aux-draps/language-school-trips-to-voyagers-moulin-aux-draps>. This is run by Voyager, a travel company that specialises in school trips. Girls and boys have separate bedrooms and bathrooms, and teachers will be nearby. This year, pupils not only enjoyed the day trips but also the countryside location and quality of food available, which can be tailored for all dietary needs.

Our itinerary for the next trip is yet to be confirmed however is likely to include the following:

A visit to a local bakery, where the children make their own croissant; a trip to Europe's largest aquarium; a chance for pupils to shop for their own lunch at market; a day trip to the Somme, a key World War 1 battleground; and more. Children will at all times be supported and encouraged to use their growing knowledge of the French language. You can see some of the experiences of the last group at: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/X6zfk3rkzFB55hy8>

We will travel to France on a coach, boarding the Eurotunnel at Folkestone for a 35 minute crossing. We then travel to all our visits on the coach. We visit sites together with teachers from our school supervising groups. We are also accompanied by a French-speaking guide from Voyager travel.

On the next page I have put some answers to frequently asked questions. You can book a place for your child by paying the deposit/first instalment on ParentPay. Payment will open Wednesday 14th November at 4.00 pm. Booking will close on Monday 3rd December at 4.00pm when we will reserve the places for which we have received payment. After this, you will receive confirmation of your child's place on the trip.

Kind regards,

Mr J Easter
Deputy Head Teacher

Churchfields Junior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and we implement Child Protection procedures in the appointment of all staff



French Trip FAQs

Isn't my child too young to go on a residential trip?

Some parents fear that their child will be unable to cope without them or that they will feel anxious about their child's wellbeing. By the time children are in Year 5, they relish the opportunity to go away with their school; even if they seem young now, the trip is in a year and children grow up quickly. Pupils are very rarely home sick as they enjoy the visits, time with their friends and evening activities. Teachers at Churchfields are well experienced in running residential school trips and know how to care for children while away from home. Moreover, children benefit greatly from the opportunity to feel a sense of independence in a safe place.

My child has dietary requirements/my child is a fussy eater. Will they be ok?

The hotel is well experienced in catering for dietary requirements, including gluten free for coeliac disease, Halal, vegetarian and various allergies. There is plenty for pupils to eat with options at breakfast, a big lunch and a three-course dinner and include familiar favourites such as spaghetti bolognese and French dishes presented in a way to appeal to our pupils. Pupils will need to bring a packed lunch for the first day.

Who will my child be in a room with?

Before the trip, pupils are asked to select identify four pupils who they may want to a room share with and are paired with a child they have selected and share a room with them and other friends. They can choose pupils from other classes. Boys share with boys; girls share with girls. Every room has an en suite bathroom. The smallest rooms have 2 beds and the largest have 6 beds. The rooms do not have a television that can be used or a telephone.

What if my child cannot sleep?

Children tire from a day of activities and will often fall asleep quickly. Teachers also sit outside the room to help ensure pupils are not talking and are all asleep. This is so that children have the rest needed to enjoy the next day. Staying in a different bed can occasionally affect the sleep of some children but pupils know where teachers are and can see them for help if they have a problem.

My child has a medical requirement. Can they go?

Yes. If your child has a prescription we can give the medication to them. We include children with a variety of medical needs on trips. If necessary, we will have an extra meeting to plan for their provision.

Can I call to speak to my child while they are away?

No. Pupils never take mobile phones on school residential trips. We will update an online photo album accessible through the school website and Twitter. If there is a serious family emergency, you can contact the school.

Will my child be safe?

The safety of children is our top priority. The trip is risk assessed and authorised by the local authority. Voyager school travel complies in full with guidance on school visits and is externally audited. The hotel is secure: windows open to just a crack and the hotel is locked at night time. Our teachers supervise groups and are experienced in leading school trips in France, our busy capital city and our Year 6 adventure trip to Wales.

What travel documents will my child need?

If your child is a British citizen, they will require a valid passport and European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) which can be received for free from <https://www.gov.uk/european-health-insurance-card>. Pupils can take National Identity cards from other EU countries and pupils with passports from Non-EU countries must bring their passport and evidence of their right of abode. A visa for pupils with passports from non-EU countries is not necessary as we can arrangements with the British Council for their travel. I will write to you with further details if necessary once the Brexit withdrawal agreement is/is not ratified.

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