**Residential trip to Mersea Outdoor centre 2020**

Dear parents/carers,

The year 6 residential trip for 2020 will take place from Monday 19th to Friday 23rd October 2020.

We will leave school at lunchtime on Monday and travel by coach to Mersea so we are settled and ready to start the afternoon activities. We will then return to school during the afternoon of Friday after completing morning sessions. Exact times will be discussed at a later date.

Situated on Mersea Island on the river Blackwater near Colchester, Mersea is Essex Outdoors' largest centre for outdoor learning, with over 62 acres of well-maintained grounds. All staff have undergone Criminal Record Bureau checks, and have attended child protection and safeguarding training. Qualified First Aiders are also always on site as wellasa duty member of staff always available 24-hours a day.

Over the five days the children will take part in fourteen 90 minute sessions which may include archery, caving, carts, problem solving, low ropes and many more. All activities are rigorously monitored and guidelines are followed to ensure the safety of the children at all times. During the evenings the children will be under the direction of Engaines’ staff who will provide a range of activities for the children to take part in.

The children and staff will stay in the Lodge, which is a self-contained unit with in-house showers and toilets. The secure unit features a chill out room complete with televisions, DVD player and CD player. The lodge is surrounded by grassy areas so the children have safe areas to play.

Meals are provided by the sites’ catering staff and served in the dining room. The children are given three cooked meals a day and have a wide choice of child friendly foods to choose from. All dietary requirements can be catered for.

The cost of the trip is £300 based on 42 children going which means it could rise slightly if the number of children attending drops. A non-refundable deposit of £50 needs to be paid by 19th December 2019. Following payments will be £60 by 28th February 2020, £60 by 29th April 2020, £60 by 30th June 2020 and then the balance of £60 by 18th September 2020. The cost of the coach will be covered by fundraising events held by the year 6’s throughout the year. All payments need to be made through the school’s online payment system.

Please feel free to look at the Mersea outdoor centre website www.essexoutdoors.org/mersea.php and see for yourself how fantastic an Opportunity this is for your child. If you have any queries or worries please do not hesitate to come in and ask. We will give more detailed information nearer the time.

We really hope that all children will attend the trip and make it a time to remember!

Yours sincerely

Cherry Curle

Head teacher