



MERIDIAN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Learning for Life



Wednesday 22nd June 2022

Dear Parents /Carers

Year 6 residential trip 2023
Monday 26th June 2023 – Friday 30th June 2023

As part of the Year Six curriculum, we plan a residential trip for the children to attend. We have decided to return to the PGL Activity Centre – Little Canada on the Isle of Wight. The residential will take place the week beginning 26th June 2023.

The residential trip is a wonderful opportunity and we would like to take as many of the children as possible. It has incredible value, building essential life skills in communication, working co-operatively and overcoming difficulties and the sorts of activities available are impossible to recreate in the school environment. Activity sessions offered at Little Canada include: climbing, abseiling, kayaking, challenge course, sensory trail, fencing, archery, karting, team games, beach walks and problem-solving games.

We have previously visited the PGL Little Canada Centre and we are all very excited and enthusiastic about it. The site is equipped with extensive facilities, the accommodation is fantastic and the food selection is very child-friendly. You can find out more about Little Canada on the PGL website [here](#).

The cost of the trip will be **£465.00** per child. This covers the cost of one full week at Little Canada, including the accommodation and all activities, food for the week, insurance and trained professional staff whilst at the Centre. In light of rising cost of living we want to support parents/carers by keeping the cost down, despite PGL price increases. So the school will be paying for the travel to and from the Isle Wight which costs £3,500 to help with support you.

We realise that this is a large amount of money to find, but we truly believe that this is fantastic value for money. To secure a place for your child, a non-refundable deposit of **£40 will be required by 11th July 2022**. Payment for the trip should be made via your **ParentPay** account. When paying the deposit on ParentPay you will also give your permission for your child to attend the trip.

To help spread the cost of the trip, we have set out the instalment payment dates below. Please note that these are the latest dates that these payments must be made. If you decide not to follow the instalment plan below then the interim balance payment of £135 must be made by 21st July 2022, and full payment must be made by 24th March 2023.

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Instalment Payment Dates are:

11 th July 2022	£40.00 Non-Refundable deposit	Balance = £425.00
26 th August 2022	£85.00	Balance = £340.00
21 st October 2022	£85.00	Balance = £255.00
25 th November 2022	£85.00	Balance = £170.00
24 th February 2023	£85.00	Balance = £85.00
24 th March 2023	£85.00	Trip Paid!

We are very keen for all of the Year 6 children to attend the trip and we will do everything we can to help make this happen. The school will have to decide on whether the trip is viable once we have an idea of the number of deposits paid. If we do not have enough interest to make the trip viable, then depending on numbers, the cost may need to either increase slightly or the trip may need to be cancelled, whereby we will refund your deposit. However, if you decide to pull out once the deposit is paid and the trip is going ahead, any money that you have paid towards the cost is non-refundable. PGL have a very strict cancellation policy, which we have to follow.

If your child is eligible for benefits related free school meals, we may be able to support you with the cost of this trip. You will need to put your request in writing to Ms. Westcott who will consider every application on a case by case basis. For further information, please see our [Charging and Remissions Policy](#) on the school website.

We hope that the 'Frequently Asked Questions' attached will provide you with more information about the trip. If you have any further questions, please email the Year 5 email address. We will hold another meeting about the residential trip next year in the summer term.

We hope that lots of the children are able to attend the trip and we look forward to taking them to Little Canada!

Kind Regards,

Miss K Howell
Upper KS2 Lead

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PGL Frequently Asked Questions

What does the cost of the trip include?

The cost includes: accommodation, food, travel (coach and ferry), insurance and supervised activities led by qualified PGL instructors.

Why do you visit a PGL centre on the Isle of Wight?

We have visited Little Canada on the Isle of Wight for the last 8 years. We choose to book with PGL due to their high levels of supervision and safety, their range of activities on offer and the high quality of the trip overall. We feel that the children gain confidence and independence because they travel further away from school and travel via ferry. We also choose to visit Little Canada because they offer water-based activities such as kayaking, sailing and canoeing which are not offered at other PGL centres.

There are PGL centres closer to Peacehaven, wouldn't it be cheaper to go to one of them?

We have compared the cost of visiting Little Canada (PGL centre on the Isle of Wight) and Windmill Hill (PGL centre in East Sussex). The cost of the trip is only reduced by approximately £20 (the cost of the ferry).

I have twins. Will there be any financial support?

Yes. If you have a set of twins in Year 6, you receive 25% discount per place. Please contact the school office for more information.

My child receives free school meals. Is there any support from school towards the cost?

Yes. If your child is eligible for benefits related to free school meals, the school may be able to help you. Please contact the school office for more information. Please also see the Charging and Remissions policy on the school website for more information.

What is the accommodation like?

Little Canada have cabin-style accommodation. Each cabin has bunk beds and a separate bathroom with a shower and toilet. The adults from Meridian will also be staying in cabins and they will be located next to or opposite the children's cabins.



What is the food like at Little Canada?

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PGL provide breakfast, lunch and dinner every day. Their meals are freshly-cooked, balanced and will give your child plenty of energy to keep them going throughout the day. There are hot and cold meals with vegetarian options at all meal times. Homemade soup is available every day, as well as a self-service salad bar. There is fresh fruit with every meal. Water and squash are available at every meal.

PGL cater for allergies, intolerances and special diets and children are supported to select meals that suit their dietary requirements. A sample menu from PGL can be found [here](#).

Children will eat their meals in the dining room. Other schools will also be eating at the same time, but each school has allocated tables.



What activities will my child do?

Little Canada have a wide-range of activities such as abseiling, kayaking, fencing, quad biking, zip wire and the giant swing. We ensure that children have the opportunity to try a range of activities and ask that our timetable includes some water activities, high ropes activities as well as team building activities.

All children from Meridian will have the opportunity to have a go at the same activities throughout the week.

Children will be in groups of roughly 12 children and they will complete the activities with their group. Each group will have an assigned adult from Meridian Primary School.

What does a typical day at PGL look like?

Children usually complete 4 activities each day. They'll start each day with breakfast and then two activities in the morning. Lunchtime is between 12 and 1.30pm and then the children complete two activities in the afternoon. After dinner, the children take part in evening activities. They complete the day time activities in their activity groups and the evening activities as a whole year group.

How can I keep up to date with what the children are doing while they're away?

We update the Isle of Wight section of the school website daily with a short blog about the children's day. We also share photos from the trip on the school website. The children will also be able to tell you all about their week when they return home!

Can I contact my child while they're away?

No. We do not allow the children to take mobile phones on the residential trip. We want them to be able to enjoy their week without using mobile devices. We also know that speaking to family members on the phone can make

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them miss home more and so we ask them to leave all mobile phones at home. School will contact parents and carers if a message needs to be passed on and you can find out about the trip by reading the updates on the school website.

What time will you return to school?

We usually return to school after the end of the school day. We will be able to provide you with more information about arrival times nearer the time of the trip.

What does my child need to take with them?

All children will need to take a pillow and a sleeping bag with them on the trip. We recommend taking old clothes for the activities, so that they can get muddy! Children will need at least two pairs of trainers. PGL have a [kit list](#) on their website – please note that we do not permit the children to take their mobile phones.

It's my child's birthday while they're away. Will you help them celebrate?

Definitely! We love birthdays and we will celebrate your child's birthday with them. They can bring cards from home and they may even get some treats such as birthday cake and balloons too!

My child can't swim. Can they still take part in the water activities?

Yes. Life jackets are worn for the water-based activities that the children will participate in and we ask parents and carers to inform us about their child's swimming abilities before the trip so that we can support any children who are not able to swim.

Does the long journey mean the children will miss out on some activities?

The children will participate in activities all day on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and they will take part in two activities on Friday morning before they return home. Children will also complete evening activities on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening. This is a full week's residential offered by PGL.

Will my child get to be in a cabin with their friends?

Before the trip, we ask children to choose three friends who they would like to share a cabin with. We will try our best to make sure they are in a cabin with at least one of their chosen friends. We want them to really enjoy their trip and we make sure they get to spend time with their friends. We also remind the children that the majority of their time on the trip is spent in their activity groups and they only are in their cabins at night time. We make sure the children are grouped with their friends for their activities too.

Which adults from school will attend the trip?

We won't know this for definite until nearer the time. Usually around 4-5 adults from Meridian attend the trip. The adults who attend the trip will know the children well and will support them during the residential. Usually, the Year 6 teachers attend the residential trip.

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My child takes medication. How will this be managed?

A first aider from school will attend the trip and will ensure medication is administered at the correct time each day. Before the trip, we ask parents and carers to inform us of any medication and to provide details about how frequently their child needs to take their medicine.

My child gets homesick and can't stay away from home for one night. What will happen if they are homesick? We have taken many children on residential trips and we understand that children sometimes miss home. We will support the children if they feel homesick and chat to them. We encourage them to think of all the things they'll be able to tell you about their trip when they return.

My child doesn't like heights and won't be able to do the activities. Will you make them?

The PGL staff are brilliant at leading the activities and encouraging the children to have a go. Together, the teachers from Meridian and the PGL staff, will support the children to attempt all of the activities but we won't make a child complete an activity if they do not want to. We often see that some children start the week feeling unsure about some of the 'high-ropes' activities but that by the second and third sessions on 'high-ropes' they are confident to complete the activity. The residential trip allows children to challenge themselves and try new things and all of the children feel proud of their achievements by the end of the week.

What happens in bad weather?

Outdoor activities will run as long as it is considered safe to do so and would only be curtailed due to severe weather such as lightening or high winds. Where possible alternatives will be organised subject to availability. If poor weather such as rain is forecast during your child's stay, we recommend that you pack additional clothing and footwear so wet items can be changed between activities.

What time will my child be going to bed?

Even the most active children feel tired after a full day of activities followed by an evening entertainment activity, so we insist on sensible bedtimes for children to ensure that everyone gets a good night's rest. Exact times may vary depending on the day – we usually find that the children stay up later on the first night but are ready to go to sleep earlier by Tuesday night!

Will there be other guests at the centre?

There will be other school groups on trips at the centre at the same time as your children. These guests are supervised by PGL staff and will have completely separate activity programmes and accommodation.

How much pocket money should I send with my child to PGL?

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There is a reasonably-priced shop at Little Canada where children can buy sweets and treats as well as souvenirs for home. Children are welcome to bring up to £10 pocket money to spend during the week. This is stored in a safe, locked place. Children are responsible for budgeting in the shop, however we will supervise the children's spending and encourage them to leave enough pocket money for their next shop visit.

Can my child take sweets with them?

Yes, but please be mindful that taking too many sweets and treats may cause your child to feel unwell and we don't want them to miss out on any activities. We encourage the children to enjoy their sweets and treats at a sensible time each day so that they don't consume too much sugar before they go to sleep.

What if my child loses something whilst at PGL?

Please name all pieces of clothing that your child takes with them. Lost clothing is usually reunited with its owner on the last day when the children pack their cases and tidy their cabins. We bring any unclaimed items back to school with us but we cannot accept responsibility for lost items.

Can my child take a camera?

Yes. A named camera is allowed but not a camera on a mobile phone. We cannot take responsibility for any lost or damaged cameras. Each member of staff from Meridian will take a school camera on the trip and we upload hundreds of photos on to the school website so your child does not need to bring their own camera. For safeguarding, we store any children's cameras safely overnight so they can only use them to take photos on the activities and during the day.

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