

08 May 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

BRONZE 2016-2017

The assessed expedition will be taking place on the weekend of the **20th & 21st of May**. This will take place in and around the area of Northleach.

On this weekend, participants, in their chosen groups will need to demonstrate all their learnt skills in Basic First Aid, practical map skills, route planning and navigation with and without the use of compasses, health and safety and risk assessment and emergency action. They will be cooking an evening meal using loaned equipment and overnighting in tents at a pre-booked campsite. They will also be expected to cook a breakfast (or have something hot like porridge or hot chocolate) in the morning. Even though it is May please expect the evenings to be cool. It is very important that your child has the appropriate clothing for cool & hot weather and nights can still be very cold under canvas. They can bring an additional blanket (fleece is best) which can be taken to camp for them if they wish. I would advise this as it is better to be too hot in a tent than too cold. This blanket does not need to be packed in their rucksacks, just bagged with their name on the bag. The weather may also be wet and the ground muddy. Please ensure there are changes of clothing for any emergencies, these should be in their rucksack. They must pack **waterproofs** – both top and bottoms and their assessor will ask to see these before the start of the walk. Please ensure **footwear is appropriate** for the weather as well. Trainers are not allowed as they do not provide the correct grip needed in the wetter weather.

We will meet at school at **09:00 on Saturday, the 20th of May** and pick up time on **Sunday** can be from **16:00** at the front of school, although it may be earlier depending on their progress. Please wait on a text from your daughter or son as we will ask them to notify you when the mini buses leave for school.

Your son/daughter will have attended a pre-assessment meeting in school where advice on suitable clothing and accessories will have been given. A kit list is provided in the Training manual for additional information. Tents, rucksacks, sleeping mats, cooking stoves/pans, maps, compasses may have been borrowed from the school. These already are allocated to the participants themselves in their groups as they would have held onto them from the practice expedition. Please can I emphasise that the equipment must be returned in the state they were given out – clean and dry.

Mobile phones are permitted but only on the strict understanding that they will not be used during the expedition. Any other forms of electronic entertainments are forbidden. To pass the assessed expedition the participant must be able to demonstrate their own independence and survival skills with the aim of being self-sufficient. **They should also be packing their own bags and lunches**. There is a packing list on the following page

Yours sincerely,

I Tylee

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator

REMINDERS ON WHAT YOU NEED WITH YOU:

- Rucksack with liners (bin bags) for clothes, bed roll and sleeping bag
- Spare set of clothes & at least 2 pairs of thick socks (in case one pair gets wet)
- Sleep attire – not necessarily PJs or similar, but comfy clothes to sleep in. **It will get cold at night**, make sure you have additional clothes (onsie or fleece) that you can put on if you get cold. You can bring another blanket in a named bag separately, give it to Mrs Tylee who will take it to camp for you.
- Warm top for evening (it will get quite cold in the evening – a fleece is good)
- WaterProofs – Top & Bottom (**MUST HAVE**) will be checked! & trainers (spare set of shoes) for evening
- Sleeping bag & Sleeping mat
- Cutlery – 1 spoon, fork & knife
- Plate/Cup/bowl - NOT glass please. Plastic or metal only
- Simple toiletries (no need for shower gel/shampoo & go easy on makeup) – tooth brush/paste, brush, face wash, soap, small towel and Wet wipes
- Matches (for lighting your stove)
- Check the weather : if rain anticipated, bring waterproofs – both top and bottoms OR if **hot** – sunscreen, sunglasses, hat/caps
- Own medication (inhalers, antihistamines etc)
- FIRST AID – should be at least one for whole group
- **Torch (MUST HAVE** – evenings though longer, will get dark after 8.30 pm)
- Washing up Liquid (small pot, Wash sponge & tea towel - have one for group would be best)
- Please look in your training manual (at the back for comprehensive packing list)

FOOD SUPPLIES – PLEASE REMEMBER THERE IS NO FRIDGE

- Bottles of water – At least 2 litres, if hot, add extra litre
- Packed lunch for Saturday & Sunday (avoid meat based if poss)
- Snacks – **PACK YOUR EMERGENCY RATIONS SEPARATELY, MUST BE LABELLED.** Will be checked at start of walk. Make sure you have a spare set of shoes for the evening & **you MUST have shoes on to cook.**
- Tea/Coffee/hot chocolate powder (if wanted) – bring own sugar if needed. (I can supply milk)
- Evening meal to cook on a very simple stove (please know that this will be simple cooking – do not expect to make a 3 course meal. **DO NOT BRING** Pot Noodles/ Supernoodles etc – you will not be allowed to eat them as there is no nutritional value and are the worse things to eat when on DofE. If you do bring – I will contact home to ask for alternative)
- Breakfast items – please ensure you have something hot in the morning – this can be a cooked breakfast, hot drink or Porridge etc.

FOOTWARE

- **Walking boots** – NOT Trainers, & spare set of shoes for evening. **SHOES MUST WORN WHEN COOKING**

DO NOT BRING ANY ELECTRONIC DEVICES OTHER THAN YOUR PHONE (SCHOOL & DofE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOSS OF PHONES – THESE ARE YOUR OWN RESPONSIBILITIES
Please be aware there are areas where you will be walking where there is not signal.

DO BRING A BOOK TO READ OR PLAYING CARDS FOR EVENING. I WILL MAKE SURE THERE IS A FOOTBALL BALL AVAILABLE AS WELL.