7 September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

**DofE Camping at Hurley, Riverside – Tuesday 12 & Wednesday 13 September**

We have finalised plans for the camping experience at Hurley river site. This is the final practice to prepare the students to complete the Dof E assessed expedition at the end of September.

The itinerary is as follows:

Monday Students bring kit to school (except food), everything will be packed onto mini-bus for a swift departure on Tuesday.

Tuesday Meet at 09.00 in Primary Hall for food and final check with Expedition Leaders

Travel to Hurley

Unload mini bus and prepare to travel by canoe

Pitch tents

Prepare food

Day de-brief with Expedition Leaders and relaxation time before bed.

Wednesday Cook breakfast and prepare lunch

 Dismantle tents and pack up site

 Days canoeing on the river Thames at Hurley

 Return to school by 3pm for transport home

**Kit List (Please pack in a small backpack or holdall – no suitcases)**

*Please keep everything as lightweight as possible, the students will need to carry their own bags (micro fleeces etc are lighter than hoodies). We will be carrying all equipment on canoes so only small holdalls will fit. It is important that everything is packed into dry sacks or secured bin liners to keep kit dry. Try to pack items separately in bin liner, eg: sleeping bag & pillow in one, change of clothes in another etc.*

At least 2 changes of clothing including underwear

Hoodie or fleece (the temperature will drop at night)
Pyjamas

Towel
Toiletries:- flannel, shower gel, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant (small travel ones are best and lighter to carry)
Trainers and old pair of shoes which can get wet during canoeing
Sleeping bag

Pillow

Sleeping/roll mat

Torch and spare batteries – essential as we are on a camp site where there are no lights (head torches are great).

Waterproof jacket

Waterproof trousers (if you have them)

Sun hat

Sun lotion (small)

Mosquito repellent (small), we are camping riverside so they may need this in the evenings.

Small anti bacterial hand gel

Tissues

Small pan that can be used on a gas camping stove.

Cool bag with frozen ice blocks to keep food cool

Wooden spoon

Plastic plate, plastic bowl, plastic knife, fork and spoon

Sachets of sugar or sauce they may want for their meals (optional)

Plastic water bottles (at least 2 litres)

Drinks they may require (small squirty squash, hot chocolate sachets etc)

Snacks that don’t need to be kept cool

A small (travel size) washing up liquid & scourer (students can liaise and share)

A small can or spray oil for cooking food (students can liaise and share)

**Food**

Unfortunately, due to the amount of hours students must be participating in canoeing we will not have time to visit a supermarket for students to purchase their food, therefore, they must be responsible for bringing their own food. We will discuss this in a meeting on Thursday so students will have an idea of what they require by the weekend.

They need to bring food for the following:-

**Tuesday**

A packed lunch, prepared at home

Ingredients to cook a meal on a camping stove for their evening meal

Snacks and drinks for the day

**Wednesday**

Ingredients for a breakfast, substantial as this will be a physical day

Ingredients to prepare their packed lunch.

Snacks and drinks for the day

**Trip Rules for students**

Rules for pupils - School rules apply at all times.

* Follow instructions of staff and site staff at all times
* No Mobile phones can be taken, if a student does not adhere to the rule, parents will be called to collect them. It is a DofE rule that participants cannot take phones on expedition. Please leave them at home, if you bring them they will be locked in a cupboard at school until our return. If this rule is broken students will not participate in any further camping expeditions and therefore will not be assessed.
* Pupils will only have access to their tents.
* Pupils must stay with group in designated areas at all times.
* Pupils are not permitted to chew gum.
* Personal music players are permitted at appropriate times if headphones are used.

 (mobile phones cannot be used as personal music players)

* Pupils must not enter a bathroom that is occupied. Two Staff will support any student needing assistance with personal care to uphold Safeguarding guidelines.

Pupils who do not follow the rules are at risk of being sent home early which will result in parents picking them up from the venue. We ask that you discuss this with your son/daughter so that they understand the importance of following the rules.

If a parent needs to contact their son/daughter in an emergency, this can be done quickly with a call to the school during the day time, Staff from Manor Green will call staff on the trip straight away. In the evening you can contact the DofE trip manager by contacting 07377800291

If your son/daughter has any medication they take outside the normal school hours, please can you fill in the attached form for each of the different medication they take and send in the in-date medication in a clearly labeled box with their name.

If you have any other concerns, comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me on the school number ext: 2615. We are all very excited by the trip, and look forward to the students having a really enjoyable time.

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The student’s final camping assessment will take place on the 28 and 29 September 2017.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Astle

DofE Leader