



PAYMENT FOR TRIPS – FROM THE GOVERNORS

The governing body of Western Primary School is very proud of the number and variety of trips and experiences that the school is able to offer our children. To date this year these have included residential courses at East Barnby and Bewerley Park, visits to Knaresborough Castle, the Countryside Day, the Yorkshire Museum, Brimham Rocks, Newcastle to look at the bridges, the Harrogate Pantomime, the Deep in Hull, the Yorkshire Wildlife Park, a Bradford Mosque, the Yorkshire Sculpture Park as well as regular swimming lessons for the pupils in Years 2, 3 and 4. These opportunities add a depth and context to the children's learning as well as being an opportunity for them to share experiences together outside school.

With the exception of swimming, in respect of which the national curriculum states that the children must be able to swim 25m before they leave Year 6, schools are not required to provide these opportunities. Furthermore, there is no allocated money either for swimming or for any other activity from central government or North Yorkshire County Council to fund them.

Funding instead comes from parents who are asked to make voluntary contributions for the various trips and the school is very grateful to all those parents who do contribute the amounts that the school requests. The school also appreciates the generous support that Western Family and Friends PTA provides to the various year group teams. The sums parents are asked for are kept as low as possible thanks to WFF PTA often donating, for example, the cost of the transport and refreshments for a trip.

At any time, but particularly in the current economic climate, we recognise that for some families making the contributions that the school requests are sometimes difficult. It is, however, important that no child is excluded from these opportunities and it is vital that the children in these families are supported. Any shortfall in funding for trips is usually made up from the School Fund, to which parents are asked to contribute in the Autumn Term.

Unfortunately, it is now evident that there is a significant gap between the amount required to continue to offer all these trips and opportunities and the level of voluntary contributions coming in to school. Although schools are legally only able to ask for a 'voluntary' contribution, in reality, there is no school funding available to pay for these trips; quite simply, without parental support Western will not be able to continue to offer the number and variety of extras that it has been able to in recent years.

We are sure that parents do appreciate the benefits that come from the broad range of opportunities available to Western children and that they would wish for them to continue to be available. If this is the case, and where it is financially possible for your family to contribute, then we would be very grateful if you would make the voluntary contributions when they are requested. Parents in receipt of Universal Credit/Free School Meals may be entitled to additional support from the School. Please speak to the office or the Parent Support Worker for more information.

Many thanks

The Governing Body of Western Primary School

