



28th April 2010

To all Year 5 and Year 6 Parents

CANOE TRIP TO YORK 11-13 June

You will probably be aware that I am planning another canoe trip towards York this year on similar lines to last year's event. We will depart from school on Friday evening and paddle along the rivers Swale, Ure and Ouse towards York, camping out each night in farmer's fields, and finishing near Beningbrough Hall on Sunday lunchtime.

Safety is of course paramount. All children will wear buoyancy aids. There will be a minimum of two instructors on the water at all times. A few parents would be welcome to come and canoe with us if they would like to – but they must be competent.

Outline arrangements are attached. Please note that the expedition is in stages. Children are free to join and leave as you or they wish. The number of canoes is limited so I will have to limit the number of places available on the trip. Priority will go to those who have been attending canoe-training sessions during the year, but a few "untrained" children are perfectly safe to come – and welcome. Canoeing is not rocket science. (For those unsure of the difference, canoeing is in stable open canoes, Indian style, with two or three children in each canoe with single-ended paddles. Kayaking is in closed-cockpit kayaks with double-ended paddles – rather more difficult to go straight, and rather easier to capsize).

In addition to finding out which girls would like to participate, what I would like to know now is which parents are prepared to help! I need tent erectors and dismantlers, cooks (particularly for hearty breakfasts), washers-up, minibus drivers and emergency workers (warm drinks, dry clothing, TLC). The easiest option is for you to email me (p.bailey@queenmarys.org) with your offers and I'll make out a rota. Miss Kelly Hillyer, Mr M-J and I shall do the camping each night – it is probably easier if no parent stays overnight (go home after you have washed up and made hot chocolate, get back in time to make us all early morning tea in our sleeping bags please).

The school will provide tents, portaloos and all cooking equipment and food. All your daughter will need is warm clothing (track suit is perfect) and a sleeping bag and sleeping mat.

Please would you complete the attached reply slip as appropriate and I will let you have more details later. There will be a small cost of about £10 to cover expenses.

Yours sincerely

Peter Bailey
YEAR 5 AND 6 CANOEING TRIP 2010
OUTLINE ARRANGEMENTS

The Aim is to canoe as many as possible of Years 5 and 6 from Queen Mary's towards York over the weekend 11-13 June.

Timetable: The trip will be in 4 stages (Fri pm, Sat am, Sat pm, Sun am) with children doing as many or as few stages, and camping as many nights, as they wish. There will be planned and emergency get-out points along the route:

Fri	4:30pm 7pm	Depart QMS Arrive Eldmire Farm Dalton – camp (6 km, one portage)
Sat	9am 1pm	Depart Eldmire Farm Helperby – lunch (8km, one portage)
	1:30 (3:30 6pm	Depart Helperby Myton-on-Swale - tea) Arrive Great Ouseburn – camp (10km)
Sun	9am (11am 12:30	Depart Great Ouseburn Linton Lock) Beningbrough Hall – lunch (7km, one portage)

The timings are approximate and dependent on the current. I suspect that we shall be able to review arrival times once we have got going and found how fast we actually travel.

Help required:

We shall need staff and parental volunteers for:

Carrying canoes around Topcliffe weir on Friday evening

Accompanying Canoes (no extra safety staff needed, but one or two would be welcome)

Setting up and dismantling tents, kitchens and campsites

Cooking supper/breakfast – preparing lunches

Driving safety bus throughout trip (minibus with canoe trailer)

CANOE TRIP TO YORK

11 TO 13 JUNE 2010

I give permission for my daughter

(Name).....

to go on the canoe trip from Topcliffe to York.

Any special medical/dietary notes:

.....
.....

My contact numbers during the weekend will be:

.....
.....

(If you cannot contact me please contact

.....)

Signed

(Parent).....