

27 January 2012



Dear Parents

As many of you are aware, the Year 5 Residential has become an integral part of Ashville's curriculum. Outdoor pursuits introduce young people to adventure in a productive way, and also encourage them to make decisions and work as members of a team.

Buckden House, Buckden, North Yorkshire could well have been purpose built for our needs. It is a large 18<sup>th</sup> Century manor house standing in 3 acres of ground in the Dales National Park village of Buckden. It is ideally placed for the many activities involved in outdoor education. The immediate environment, the village of Buckden, the slopes of Buckden Pike with its waterfalls, Wharfedale with its glaciated valley, river and caves, offer unrivalled opportunities for children to undertake field and outdoor activities and continue with creative and social activities in the house. The classrooms and resource rooms in the house provide facilities for lots of follow-up opportunities after the day's activities.

Whilst at Buckden, we will be venturing into the rural environment of the Yorkshire Dales National Park to streams and river systems, caves and upland areas. We will look at the effects of glaciation and the rain cycle. All this falls neatly into our Geography syllabus. The activities offered by Buckden House are: caving, gill scrambling, archery, high ropes course, team building, low ropes course, orienteering, Valley Head's walk and The Buckden Challenge!

I have explained how the Centre is able to make our Geography Syllabus come to life. It also lends itself to problem-solving activities which offer great opportunities for the social development and enrichment of the children. Relationships are tested and re-appraised, and a higher degree of social awareness is achieved by the group in these sorts of situations.

The trip will take place from 28 May to 1 June 2012. We will be leaving Ashville on Monday morning and returning on Friday afternoon. The cost of the trip will be £230 and this includes transport to Buckden House, full board, extremely highly qualified staff, the provision of outdoor clothing, ie boots, kagoules, over-trousers, rucksacks, wellingtons and specialist equipment for activities like gill-scrambling and caving. The staff who will be accompanying the trip will be Mrs Silva, Miss Sawyer, Mr Dewhirst, Mr Rickus, Mr Headford and Miss Semark.

The educational value of the trip is extremely high and I hope to take **every** child in the year group. I will be holding a parents' evening in April to talk through equipment needed and to provide general information about the trip and activities.

Payment for the trip can either be in one lump sum or in two payments of £115. To secure your child's place on the residential trip the first payment needs to be made by Friday 2 March. The second payment will need to be made by Friday 4 May.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything about this trip, please do not hesitate to come and see me, or your child's form tutor.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs S Silva**

Please return to Mrs Silva

# Buckden House Residential



Please reserve a place for ..... Form .....

on the above residential

I enclose a cheque for £230 / £115 made payable to **Ashville College**

Signed .....

Date .....