

Year 5 Trips, Visits and Swimming for 2026/27

Dear Parents and Carers,

Learning outside the classroom is such a wonderful way to bring learning to life, enrich our children's understanding, and support their personal and social growth. Here at CFS, we love creating these memorable experiences for our pupils, and we truly appreciate your incredible support in making them happen.

To keep things as simple and predictable as possible, we are continuing our usual practice of asking for a one-off voluntary contribution to cover our trips, visits, and workshops for the entire academic year. By doing this now, we hope to ease the admin for everyone and help you budget ahead. Please note that this covers our standard daytime trips and workshops; separate arrangements will still apply for residential overnight stays, after-school clubs, or activities for select small groups.

Alongside our usual trips, the children will also be taking part in swimming lessons this year. There will be 10 sessions in total, with no sessions running in the first or last week of term.

What's New for This Year? We are absolutely thrilled to share that this year's line-up includes our first-ever in-school pantomime this December! This will be a fantastic festive treat enjoyed by all of our primary children (and staff!), right here in school!

Payment Items on ParentPay: You will soon see two separate payment items on ParentPay:

- 2026/27 Primary Trips: We are asking for £40 for the year to support the trips within Year 5.
- 2026/27 Swimming: We are asking for £33 for the year. Please note that this specific amount is to support the transport costs to and from the swimming lessons and associated costs.

Both of these items can be paid in two instalments (or all at once if you prefer). We ask for the first part of these contributions before the term starts so we can confidently secure bookings and transport for the children.

Important Note on Trip Balances

Important Note on Balances: For the majority of parents who paid in full last year, your 2026/27 Primary Trips balance will look a little different. Because there was a £8.50 underspend in Year 4, we have carried those funds over, meaning your ParentPay balance for this year's trips should only be £31.50. If your child is new to CFS, or if you didn't pay in full last year, your balance will show an amount greater than £31.50. (Please note the swimming balance remains unaffected by this carry-over).

While these contributions are voluntary, our trip and swimming programmes do rely on them to go ahead. We are very mindful of the financial pressures families face and always work hard to get the absolute best value for money. If we don't receive enough contributions, we may unfortunately have to cancel some activities as a last resort.

If your family is currently experiencing financial difficulties and you are unable to contribute, we warmly invite you to reach out to our finance office in absolute confidence at finance@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk.

We will ask for your annual consent for both trips and swimming on ParentPay, alongside any emergency contact details or medical/dietary updates. If any of these details change throughout the year, please just let us know before an activity takes place.

If you have any questions at all, please email us at office@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk and we can then direct your query to the relevant member of staff.

Thank you so much for your ongoing partnership and support. We can't wait for another year of exciting adventures with the children!

Warmest regards,

The CFS Primary Team