

Year 4 and 5 Trips, Visits and Swimming for 2025/26

3/7/25

Dear Parents/Carers

Learning outside the classroom is a hugely valuable and effective way of extending pupils knowledge, enriching pupils understanding and promoting personal and social development. This is why CFS promotes and encourages the organisation of educational visits for all primary pupils and it is hoped that parents will also recognise the value and importance of these visits by giving their full support.

Again, for next year, we are asking every primary parent/carer to pay a one-off voluntary contribution for their child which will cover all trips and visits for the academic year. Your child will also start/continue swimming in 2025/26. There will be 10 sessions in total, with no session in the first or last week of term. The contribution we are asking for will also support the swimming programme. We will not ask for further contributions throughout the year for educational trips or workshops. Exceptions to this will be for residential and overnight trips, after school clubs including activities outside of school hours and events that are only relevant to a select group of pupils. We hope that this one-off payment and consent will ease the administration for both the school and parents/carers, and will also allow parents to budget and plan appropriately. We are asking that part of the contribution is paid before the start of the academic year so that trips can be planned with the knowledge that there are sufficient funds to pay for them.

You will see a payment item on ParentPay called 2025/26 Primary Trips and we are asking for £50 for the year, to be paid in two instalments. Both instalments can be paid at the same time if parents wish. You will also see a payment item on ParentPay called 2025/26 Swimming and we are asking for £33 for the year, to be paid in two instalments. Both instalments can be paid at the same time if parents wish. Although payment is voluntary, if insufficient voluntary contributions are made, we will not be able to offer the extensive programme of educational visits that we hope to. We understand the challenging financial situation that many families are currently in and we have carefully considered the total cost of the trip contributions. However, should we not have sufficient contributions to run these trips, we may be forced to cancel them. This will only ever happen as a last resort.

In some years for 24/25, the full amount was not spent so this will be reflected in the actual amount showing on your child's 25/26 Primary Trip balance.

Costs for every trip and visit are calculated as near as possible to break even and any non-payments have to be subsidised by the school. If you are unable to contribute, you are invited to contact the school finance office in confidence on finance@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk, so that arrangements can be made to cover the cost of your child's participation. We will continue to ensure the best value for money on our trips.

Annual consent will be requested on ParentPay, along with any details on emergency contacts and any dietary or medical information. We therefore ask that prior to any trips taking place, parents contact us if there are any changes to the consent details given at the beginning of the academic year. If you have any queries at all please contact us on office@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk

Kind regards,

The CFS Primary Team