



SAINT MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT

Eco-School Green Flag Award 2017

Principal: Mr P Gilchrist

E mail: pgilchrist570@c2kni.net

Telephone: 028427 28278

53, Windmill Hill
Portaferry
Co. Down
BT 22 1RH

16th May 2022

Dear Parents,

It is not long now until we set off for the YMCA in Newcastle.

On Monday 23rd May, all pupils will meet at 10.30am at the Ferry Terminal to get the 10.45am ferry crossing to Strangford. They will be met at the ferry terminal by a bus that will take them to Newcastle. **Pupils will need to bring a packed lunch for this day, which they will eat upon arrival at the YMCA.** It is hoped that pupils will return on the 2.00pm ferry sailing on Wednesday 25th May 2022.

Mrs Fowler will be the teacher in charge during the trip and Mr Denvir will also be there for the full duration of the pupils stay at the YMCA. Mrs Milligan and Mrs McCallum will also be at the YMCA for daytime activities.

In terms of packing for this trip some information is contained below on the type of clothing recommended.

In general, it is recommended that pupils bring clothes for the OUTDOORS. Although the forecast is very encouraging it can be rainy in the YMCA and the weather can shift quite suddenly, so be prepared and bring a;

- waterproof jacket
- a number of fleeces or warm sweatshirts,
- a number of tracksuit bottoms/ trousers.
- At least one pair of shoes you don't mind getting wet or dirty.
- Clean clothes for 2 nights in Newcastle
- Towels and soap bag with shampoo.
- Sun Cream

NO CROCS, SANDALS, OR FLIP FLOPS ON ANY ACTIVITIES

In terms of the different activities that your child will be participating in these are the recommended clothes they will need;

Laser tag:

Laser tag can get them quite muddy if they get really into it so proper shoes with grip are recommended.

Adventure Walk:

Kids will be running for a majority of this activity and will get absolutely filthy and soaked. They will need to bring clothes and shoes for this activity which they don't mind getting soaked and muddy.

They will be crawling in mud, walking in deep mud, and swimming in a small pool in the Glen river.

~NOTE~ as we are in muddy dead leaves and in quite a bit of grass, allergies are something that should be noted on consent forms so that instructors can make sure children with things like hay fever aren't putting grass in their helmets or mud on their faces~

Also Asthma and inhaler issues should be noted.

An old pair of trainers with good grip on them are recommended for running and standing around the pool at the river, as it is slippery.

Children will be provided with a waterproof jacket and trouser, a helmet, and two buoyancy aids will be brought for the pool to be shared amongst the group.

Archery and Initiative Games

These activities usually don't require any special clothing. They should wear weather appropriate and comfortable clothing.

Zip Line

Long hair should be tied or braided up, low ponytails or buns. Rings taken off. Trousers or long Bermuda type shorts should be worn. **NO SKIRTS or SHORT SHORTS.**

Bouldering:

Your child is most likely to get completely wet. They should wear clothes they don't mind getting wet, as well as shoes **WITH GRIP** that they don't mind getting soaked. The rocks can be very slippery so they need the grip. Welly boots are not a good idea for this.

For this activity your child will be provided with a waterproof jacket and trousers, a helmet and buoyancy aids.

We also recommend you send a black bag/ wash bag with your child so they can put all of their wet clothing into when packing.

This information is by no means comprehensive and as difficult as it may be we urge you to not over pack. Everything should be contained with one overall bag.

Any pupil needing any form of medication **MUST** bring it with them (eg. If a child has asthma, no matter how mild, they **MUST** bring it with them). This includes all other medication. All medication will be kept and administered by Mrs Fowler or Mr Denvir, so please label it clearly, with instructions of when it must be taken.

In relation to any potential spending money there is no 'tuck shop' in YMCA and children will be reasonably fed throughout the day, so they will not need any money in the centre itself. When the children visit Newcastle for the evening (KFC/amusements etc...) they will need some money to cover this. Between £10-£20. Please send this money in a sealed envelope with your son/daughter's name on it. This can be given to Mrs Fowler or Mr Denvir **BEFORE** the children leave (on the morning of departure).

We understand that you might want to send some snacks with your child. If you are doing so, please be mindful of the quantity and quality of snacks provided. We don't mind pupils consuming these at night but we don't want them to overindulge.

All pupils are requested by YMCA to leave **ALL mobile phones at home**. Any mobile phones sent with the children will be taken from them and kept in a safe place – they will be returned to them back at school on the final afternoon. Resident visitors can be contacted through the Office at the Centre in cases of emergencies on (02843723172.) A Whatsapp group will be set up and administered by Mrs Fowler to keep everyone informed. Please be mindful that this group is only for your information and if you really wish to contact Mrs Fowler please do so via a private message. However, during school hours you can contact the School office and we will endeavour to alleviate any concerns.

I hope you find this information helpful but I can assure you that the 3-day trip should be great fun and we will endeavour to make it as enjoyable as possible. I hope your son/daughter enjoys every minute of it, as Mrs Fowler and Mr Denvir hope to also!

I hope they take with them fond memories of their last time together as a close knit group before they venture into their young lives in their new school settings.

However, should you have any other questions or concern, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mr Gilchrist
Principal