

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Dear Y5 Parents and Carers,

It is important that we review everything we do as a school and with Y6 recently returning from their week long residential to France, it seemed very timely to have a think in detail about how we plan for this trip in future years. The trip was a huge success; the feedback we have received from children, parents and staff has been exceptionally positive. If you have not seen the pictures on Twitter, do have a look as it gives you a real flavour of the activities and opportunities the children were engaged in throughout the week. We are very mindful of the cost to you as parents and carers, and recognise that family decisions need to be taken in light of the financial commitment to a school journey. This year the cost was £410.00.

For many reasons, February is, without a doubt, not the best time to be on a school journey; the most important reason being the significant impact having a week away from school has on learning, and the lead up to the Y6 SATS, and therefore on the progress of our pupils. We simply cannot compromise on this.

So, we are faced with a dilemma, and would very much welcome your immediate thoughts as we have to make a decision quickly. We are faced with three options for our current Y5 cohort as they move into Y6:

- 1) Move the school journey to July when we are nearing the end of the school year, reducing the impact on the 'flow' of learning. The journey could therefore become part of our 'moving on from DHJS/transition' plans. There would, however, be an increase at this time of year to **£459.00**, and given the timing in July, we would most likely have to lose our Y6 Production which would just not be feasible to do on top of a week away.
- 2) Move the journey to early October when the children have had a few weeks to settle into the Y6 routine. The cost at this time of year has an increase to **£395.00**.
- 3) Decide that we no longer wish to continue with our school journey to France. Given that as the children move to their respective secondary schools, they will be offered further opportunities to travel abroad in the not too distant future, you may feel that the cost of this trip is simply too much of a financial commitment. If this is the option favoured by the majority of parents, we would certainly ensure that we provide an alternative experience for our Y6 to practise their French and to come together as a year group prior to moving on.

We ask that you have a good think about the three options and let us know by no later than **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March** what your preferred option would be. If you could simply email the office: [office@dulwichhamletjuniorschool.org.uk](mailto:office@dulwichhamletjuniorschool.org.uk) with your child's name, class and France option 1, 2 or 3 in the subject line that would be fantastic. When making our decision we will take into account the strength of preferences received by you all. We will inform with you the outcome and way forward prior to breaking-up for the Easter holidays. Thank you in advance.

Yours sincerely

Claire Purcell (Head of School)