

Posted on school website 26th June 2020

By email / post in due course



Dear Parent / Carer

26th June 2020

FORFAR ACADEMY SKI TRIP

16-23 JANUARY 2021, ALPE D'HUEZ, FRANCE: LETTER #3

I hope you and your family are well and safe. I wanted to update you on our ski trip scheduled for the coming winter.

You will be aware that almost all international travel was suspended earlier this year and the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office advised against all but essential travel. This advice is still in place but is expected to change very soon and you will possibly have seen reports in the media about travel possibilities opening up for the summer. In the French Alps, holiday resorts are preparing to open for summer activities and making plans for the winter season.

I have been in discussions with SkiBound, the travel company we have worked with to arrange school ski trips for over 15 years. At the moment, **we are planning to continue with the trip** scheduled for January 2021. Obviously, this is dependent upon a huge range of factors. If measures are introduced by either the UK or French governments which mean that mean we cannot travel, or we cannot access the accommodation or an acceptable level of activity, the booking will be rolled over to the following season i.e. January 2022.

You will remember that school buildings closed at the time we were collecting second and third deposits and there has been much uncertainty around every aspect of life in the last few months. Therefore, I have requested a revised payment schedule from SkiBound and they have agreed the following:

- At least £250 per person paid by 31 August (inclusive of anything paid so far)
- At least £500 per person paid by 30 Sep 2020
- At least £750 per person paid by 31 Oct 2020
- Total fee of £940 per person paid in full by 30 Nov 2020.

This is an extension of the time they would normally allow for payments but they are a good company and are working with us.

Essentially, if it is possible and safe to run the trip this coming January then we will go. If it is not possible or safe then the trip, and everything you have paid, will be carried forward for a trip in January 2022 which will run at the same price.

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If you are happy to proceed on this understanding then you don't need to do anything at the moment. I will contact you again after the summer holidays with updated information and requesting that you have paid at least the initial £250 on ipay by 31 August. Of course, you can pay this now if you wish.

Of course, I understand that, regardless of travel restrictions, you may not wish your child to travel in January 2021. If this is the case then you can withdraw your child from the trip **now** and receive back everything you have paid so far. If you are thinking about this then I would advise you to withdraw just now. Anything paid after the summer will be non-refundable. If the booking is to be carried forward by a year your payments would also roll forward then and it would not be possible to refund at that stage.

If you wish to withdraw your child, please email me: g.wallace@angusschools.org.uk **by 31st August 2020** and I will arrange for anything you have paid to be refunded (please note that refunds will be processed after the summer holidays).

If you have any questions at all, please also email me. It will not be possible to arrange refunds or get ipay support over the summer as the school office is closed but I will be checking my emails periodically and make every effort to answer your questions.

I hope this letter helps update you on our thinking and explains the options you have. I know that some of our participants will be looking forward to the trip and the thought of something exciting and adventurous will have kept them going during lockdown. Equally I know that, sadly, many families' financial circumstances will have changed over the last few months and an expensive trip is the last thing anyone needs to be worried about.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions. In the meantime I hope you all stay well over the summer.

Yours sincerely

Mr G WALLACE
Depute Head Teacher