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Education Department
Giffnock Primary School
Academy Road
Giffnock
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19th May 2023

P7 Residential Information Evening: Thursday 24th August 2023 6.30 – 7.15pm

Dear Parent/ Carer,

For our annual Primary 7 Residential Trip next session, we have booked to go to Lockerbie Manor on the week beginning Monday 18th March 2024. Our children have had such a great time at Lockerbie Manor previously that we feel it remains the right choice for our 2024 excursion. Many of the schools in East Renfrewshire use Lockerbie Manor and it is of course fully approved by our authority. The residential week will be a cluster event, with children from Braidbar and Thornliebank Primaries attending at the same time as us. In previous years this has worked very well for our children in terms of being part of their wider transition experiences in the move towards High School, so I am pleased that we are able to continue this.

As with so many expenses over the last year, Lockerbie Manor has informed us that their price per child for the trip has increased over 25%. Given this, we gained costings from two other ERC approved residential centres for comparison. Both were in fact more expensive than Lockerbie Manor, despite not necessarily being able to provide the same overall level of provision as Lockerbie. We then worked closely with our Parent Council to explain these issues and to agree a decision. Both the school and our Parent Council were in full agreement that the week residential at Lockerbie still represents very good value for our families and remains the best choice for our children.

We cannot confirm a final total cost at this time, as exact transport costs cannot yet be confirmed, however we expect the total cost of the excursion to be approximately £385. We realise that this is a considerable expense and therefore wanted to tell you even earlier than usual, in order for you to plan accordingly. You can begin to make payments for this excursion from September 2023 and all payments ought to be completed by Friday 23rd February 2024. We do however require the initial, minimum deposit of £60 by Friday 29th September 2023 to secure your child's place. Payments must be made online through ParentPay as the school can no longer accept cash or cheques. We have outlined a possible payment plan below following the deposit payment, though you can make any payments, or of course begin savings yourself in advance, at any time until the 23rd February 2024:

- £60 deposit to be paid by Friday 29th September 2023
- £65 instalment to be paid October 2023
- £65 instalment to be paid November 2023
- £65 Instalment to be paid December 2023
- £65 instalment to be paid January 2024
- £65 final instalment to be paid by Friday 23rd February 2024

Mark Ratter, Director of Education, East Renfrewshire Offices, 211 Main St, Barrhead, G78 1SY

Looking ahead, if you were to have any questions regarding these payments we would be very happy to speak further about them with you, so please do not hesitate to contact our school office.

I am also writing to you at this early stage as we have organised a presentation to parents/ carers and children, in order to give you more information about the trip. This will be held on Thursday 24th August 2023 at 6.30pm in our gym hall. Given that this date falls quite early in the session, I wanted to advise you of it now. In the past, we have always found these information sessions to be very useful for both the P7 child and the parent, in order to begin the preparations for the excursion. General information about the content and nature of the week will be shared so that you can make the final decision as to whether or not you would like your child to attend. In previous years, almost all of our children have attended Lockerbie and we do hope that this will prove to be the case again.

I very much look forward to our new Primary 7 year ahead and, as I am sure the residential week will prove, many highlights to come.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rob Lawson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Rob Lawson
Head Teacher