

Shortenílls

Environmental Centre

The Adventure Learning Charity

What is it? Where is it?

Shortenills is an adventure and outdoor learning centre based just outside Chalfont St Giles. The centre provides a quiet and gentle setting of parkland, mature woods and ponds. Facilities include two large dormitories, a yurt, a large dining hall and two classrooms. For schools, this provides an exciting and safe environment for residential visits.

The dining room



Aerial view of
the site

When are we going?

We will be leaving school on the morning of Monday 10th June 2019 and returning to school on the afternoon of Wednesday 12th June 2019.

Why are we going?

This residential trip gives us the opportunity to integrate outdoor learning into our curriculum. The centre is run by qualified teachers who will lead the learning activities. Using the awe and wonder of nature, they aim to inspire and motivate the children, encouraging them to challenge themselves outside of their normal environment and maybe, their comfort zone.

We hope that the trip will also give the children the chance to be more independent, to build confidence in themselves and to learn how to work better as part of a team.

Staffing

- The trip will be led by Mrs Price.
- Mrs Chaplin and Mr Mackriell will also be there for the whole time.
- Teaching Assistants will be confirmed nearer the time.

Daily Routine

- Monday – We will be travelling by coach. Upon arrival, the children will unpack their bags and then have lunch. Activities will commence after lunch. Dinner will be served about 6pm then we will have time to relax and play games before bed. We will be aiming for 7.30-8pm bedtime.
- Tuesday- Breakfast will be served at 8.30am. This will be followed by a morning activity, lunch, an afternoon activity and evening meal.
- Wednesday – Breakfast at 8.30am followed by a morning activity and lunch. We will leave the centre after lunch. Exact times to be confirmed nearer the time.

Sleeping

- The children will sleep in two dormitories (boys and girls). Beds are a combination of single beds and bunk beds with a pillow and duvet provided. Most of the beds are single beds. The children will need to bring a duvet cover, a bottom sheet and a pillow case - and be able to put these on so please practise!
- The staff will be in single rooms at the end of the dormitories. There will be at least four staff from our school there overnight.
- At the end of the dormitories, there are showers and toilets.



Eating

- The centre has an experienced in house catering team who will ensure that we are well fuelled throughout the day. All meals will be served in the dining hall.
- **Breakfast: Cereal, toast, croissant, fruit and fruit juice**
- **Lunch: Buffet sandwich lunch, crisps and fruit. Squash/Water to drink**
- **Dinner: A hot dinner and pudding are served. There is always the option of a jacket potato and one other hot dish such as chicken pie, beef burger or tomato pasta bake**

All dietary requirements are catered for.

The children are encouraged to assist with serving and clearing at meal times and as the centre is an eco site, there is a league table of food waste, with the children having responsibility for weighing the waste after each meal.



Sample Programme

- Discover Shortenills – pupils will explore the woodland to understand safety rules and boundaries.
- Star orienteering
- Camp Fire
- Creatures of the Pond investigation
- Shelter building
- Hike off site
- Team Tree Challenge
- Outdoor arts and crafts



Medical and Dietary Needs

- All our staff and those at the centre are first-aid trained and there are locked facilities for the storage and medicines.
- We will be asking you to complete a medical consent form and to bring this into school together with your child's medication on the morning of 10th June.
- You do not need to send calpol or piriton as we will be taking supplies of these medications with us. We will record each occasion we give these medications and give you a copy of this record upon our return.
- Children will need to bring sun lotion (named please) but they will have to take responsibility for applying it.
- In the event of bed wetting, there is spare bedding available. It would be useful if you could advise us beforehand if this is likely to be a problem for your child. We will operate a code system so no one has to be embarrassed.

Kit List

- The children will need to bring their belongings in a holdall (suitable to be stored under the bed) which they will need to be able to carry from the coach to the dormitories
- Toiletries
- A named torch
- Warm outdoor clothing including a fleece and tracksuit bottoms (multiple thin layers are best)
- Ideally two pairs of trainers – one older pair for outdoors and one for travel and indoor wear.
- A small ruck sack or draw-string bag
- Waterproof coat and trousers (if they have them)
- A refillable water bottle
- Wellington boots
- Sun hat
- Plastic bags (to store dirty clothes and boots for return journey)
- A teddy or soft toy (compulsory for all children and adults)
- A book to read

Kit List (2)

- All items **must be named**.
- The children must not bring any electrical items with them.

Please involve the children in the packing so that they know what they have with them and are able to recognise their clothing and re-pack their bag to come home.

A full kit list is included in the information we will be handing out at the end.

Shopping Experience

- On the Tuesday evening the children will have the chance to run and buy from the Centre shop. It is full of eco-friendly products such as book marks, pencils, money wallets and key rings. Please send the children with a maximum of £5.

Our plans for talking to the children

- We will be putting a Question box in each classroom and encouraging the children to write questions, what they are excited about/ looking forward to, something they might like to achieve while they are there etc.
- We will use the children's responses to plan a lesson next week.
- We will be setting the children an Easter holiday homework to practise putting a duvet cover onto a duvet and making their bed.
- We will be putting up a display with pictures of the activities they are going to do, a map of the site, photographs of the buildings and surroundings. We hope this will enable the children to become familiar with where they are going.

Twitter

- We will be aiming to tweet while we are away however you must complete the Twitter form and Request to join **before we leave**. We will not be able to add you to the group once we have gone.
- The relevant forms will be included in the pack we will be distributing after Easter.

Cost and Insurance

- The trip will be covered by Bucks County Council residential trip insurance. A summary of the cover will be available on the school website.
- The cost of the trip will be in the region of £170 and we will confirm as soon as possible. Pupil Premium and Ever 6 children will only need to pay 50% of the cost.