



Established in 1856

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Monday 11th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing with more details of the forthcoming trips to Spain and Romania, which are the final part of our last Erasmus project.

Some of you may not be aware of what Erasmus is, given that the project has been suspended for the past year or so as a result of the pandemic. Erasmus is an EU initiative designed to foster links between young people across Europe. We are in a project with schools from Belgium, Spain, Romania and Poland. Each school takes turns in hosting 6-8 children from each of the partner schools. The children spend a day working in the host school on a project and two further days completing cultural visits and activities that allow them to mix and develop friendships.

We only have visits to Spain and Romania left. Once this project is over, we can't be involved in any new projects because of our leaving the EU. So, I want to make the most of what is left to us.

For both trips, two members of staff will accompany the children. I will definitely be one of those travelling to Romania and I may also go to Spain. We only receive a certain amount of money from the EU and I can't overspend on the project. Covering a teacher for a week is an additional cost whereas my being out of school doesn't involve any expense. Hence, I will take part in one trip and possibly two. It is very likely that the other staff members will be teachers, whose classes will be covered during their absence. I cannot yet tell you which teachers will accompany which trip.

In both cases we will fly from one of the London airports. We fly to Spain on Tuesday 18th January and return on Saturday 22nd. The trip to Romania is from Monday 28th March to Friday 1st April. All of the costs for travel, accommodation and food are covered by the grant we have received from the EU. There is no cost to you.

It is the responsibility of the host school to help organise accommodation for the visiting partners. In both cases we will be staying in hotels close to the schools. The children will share two rooms, separated by gender, and the two members of staff will be in adjacent rooms. We will be with them at all times during the stay and will act just as if they were our own children.

As I have said, one day will be spent in the host school. We tour the school so that we can see how it differs from our own and then the children from all of the countries go into a classroom and work on a simple science task. We don't stay with them in the lesson. This will terrify them! It always does initially. All of the visiting teachers go into a neighbouring room to discuss how teaching differs in the various countries. We remain close by and can be fetched if needed, but the lessons will be led by a teacher from the host school. Rest assured, their English is superb so our children won't be left confused. The actual activity isn't of great importance. Our real goal is to have the children work together and to develop friendships with those from the partner schools.

During the remaining two days, we visit local sights. Again, the focus is to provide the children with an enjoyable time during which they can speak with each other and develop friendships.

In all of my years as a teacher I have never been involved in anything as worthwhile and powerful as the Erasmus project. This is a wonderful opportunity for your children to take part in an experience which they will remember for the rest of their lives – and to possibly make friends with whom they will remain in touch for many years to come.

If you wish your child to be considered for inclusion in this project, I need you to complete the reply slip and return it to me by the end of this term please. This doesn't mean that your child *must* go if they are offered the chance to visit any of the countries. You aren't committing to it. However, we need to know who would like to be considered.

We will then speak to the children who have been put forward and we will select 6 for each trip, they will then be offered the chance to go. We try to select a group containing children whom we feel either have the attributes to cope with the demands of the experience or who will benefit most from it.

The passport requirements for both countries are that they are valid for at least 3 months from the date of return travel. If your child hasn't got an up to date passport, but you would still like them to be considered for the project, please let us know. If you have any questions at all about the project and the trips, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes



Jim Holditch

Erasmus Project

I would like my child to be considered for inclusion in the STEAM Erasmus trips to Spain and Romania

They do / do not have a current passport valid for at least 3 months after date of return.

Name of child: Year Group:

Signed: