

January 2019

Dear Parents,

Coombe Federation Ski Trip to Masella 2019 Pre-Departure Information

Well, the time is nearly upon us to depart for the Ski trip to Spain and the team of staff attending the trip are in full swing, working hard to get us ready for our send-off. As a reminder, here is an introduction to the staff accompanying us on the trip:

Mr G Taylor- Lead Practitioner, 9th CBS ski trip
Mr O Jones- Head of Humanities 4th CBS ski trip
Mr J. Melligan- Assistant Headteacher, 3rd CBS ski trip
Mr G Tanner - PE Teacher, 3rd CBS ski trip
+ 4 members of staff from Coombe Girls' School

With such a short time until we go, I would like to take this opportunity to give you some further information and request one or two things from you.

Before we go

As discussed at the Parents' Evening, we will require your son's **passport and EHIC** (please see further information on this later in the letter) to be handed in to school by 25th January. It is vitally important that we collect these promptly. These will be kept in a securely locked safe until we depart and will only be given to the pupils as we cross borders. If you feel more comfortable bringing this to school yourselves, they can be given into reception in a sealed envelope to be passed on to us.

We suggest that spending money for the boys amount to **no more than 120 Euros**. Please ensure that money is changed into the correct currency before we depart. All of their meals are provided as is evening entertainment. The only expense they will have will be food and drink in excess of breakfast, lunch and dinner, and food and drink on the way out and return trip (packed lunch/snacks will be necessary for the outward journey!). We will operate a bank so that money is safe. Please ensure your son has a few extra pounds/euros to be available to them on the Ferry.

Skiing is an active pursuit! In addition to 5 hours of skiing a day, the boys will be very busy. Tiredness will play its part in the experience that the boys have, so it is vitally important that your son is physically prepared for the rigours of skiing. A few simple exercises will ensure he makes the most out of his trip. Looking online for ski-fit exercises and having a go at these before we depart is a good idea.

Departure Day

Please ensure that your son packs **one main soft bag**. We are travelling by coach so space is limited; packing light and sensibly is required. A small bag/rucksack as hand luggage may be taken onto the bus. The pupils will not be able to access their main bag for the duration of the journey so they should ensure that they have what they need in their hand luggage, **including travel sickness medication**. When packing, please do refer to the kit list which is attached. We cannot take responsibility for personal

belongings and suggest that expensive items are left at home. If your son decides to bring his mobile phone, please bear in mind data roaming charges. It may be a good idea to purchase a European data bundle so any extra charges are not incurred. Wi-Fi is available in the communal areas in the hotel.

On the day of departure (Friday 15th February) we ask that **pupils return to Coombe Boys by 5.15pm**. We will meet and register pupils in the Barton Hall. Parents are more than welcome to accompany their son/s until departure; however parking on site will be very limited. If you are dropping your son off please ensure you do not drive onto the school site and are mindful of the schools' neighbours when choosing a suitable parking space and that the coach will need adequate room to enter the site.

We anticipate leaving school at 6.30pm although this may change depending on how quickly we can register and load the coaches.

Although 5.15pm seems early, there are some key things that we need to do before setting off. We will collect spending money for the bank. Please ensure that your son has some money (Euros) left on him for the journey. We will also collect any medication. These should be in a clear plastic bag, labelled with your sons' name, the medicine names and the dosage. A member of staff will, of course, be on hand should any specific details need to be discussed. Pupils who get travel sick should keep this medication on them for the journey.

Once on the road, our approximate itinerary looks like this:

Depart School:	6.30pm
Arrive at Dover:	8pm
P&O Ferry Depart Dover:	9.20pm
P&O Ferry Arrive Calais:	11.50pm (Local time)
Arrive at Hotel:	4pm (Saturday 10th February)

On the day of arrival, we have a chance to familiarise ourselves with our new alpine environment and sort out ski and equipment hire in resort. It will also give the pupils a chance to rest after a long journey (much needed!)

In Spain

The Hotel address is:

Alp Hotel Masella
En.alphotelmasella.com
Avda Josep Maria Bosh I Aymerich s/c,
17538 Alp (Girona), Alps. Spain
+34 497 2144201

All pupils will be issued with an emergency card which will have key information and contact numbers on as well as some useful Spanish phrases.

In the unlikely event of an injury that prevents your son from skiing, there will be members of staff on duty during the morning and afternoon that he should check in with before going off to lessons. This member/s of staff will be based at the base of the ski lifts/hotel and in contact with other members of staff. Please be reassured that your son will be supervised at all times whether he is able to ski or not. There may be times when we decide it is appropriate for your son to have some free time in the beautiful village of Masella. The groups will be remotely supervised and the stipulation will be that they are always in groups of at least 4. If you do not wish to give permission for this, please let one of the members of staff know before we depart.

In the event of an emergency, we will of course contact parents individually using the contact numbers you have submitted.

In the event that you need to contact us, we are taking two school mobile phones. These will be confirmed to you on the day of departure. Can we please ask that you only dial these numbers in an emergency. Pupils may be allowed to use them if they have no other means of contacting you. You will also be able to follow the progress of the trip on trip on **Twitter** by following @CoombeFedSki.

Insurance

We have full, comprehensive travel insurance from both Halsbury Ski (tour operator) and our own school travel insurance. This includes belongings and medical expenses. There is no need to take out any additional cover for your son, however if your son decides to bring expensive personal items with him on the trip, please check your own home insurance that the items are covered away from the home as it is far simpler to claim on your own insurance. We do request, that your son has an EHIC card with him to ensure the school does not need to pay any medical expenses that arise upfront. EHIC cards are free and you must apply as soon as possible (if your son does not have one) using a form from the post office or online. Please search for 'European Health Insurance Card'. **These should be sent in with passports** (or as soon as they arrive).

Return to School (Friday 22nd February)

We anticipate returning to school at approximately 4pm. This is liable to change due to ferry changes and traffic on the way home. As we progress, we will keep you updated. The school gates will be open on return and you will be able to park on site. Please could you inform us if you are not able to pick your son up and that he can make his own way home.

Can I once again thank you for your support and reassure you that we will take good care of your son and do everything we can to ensure he has a memorable trip.

Please contact me if you have any questions or queries regarding the trip on gtaylor10@coombe.org.uk or 0208 949 1537. This letter is also available on the school website along with the presentation from the parent's information evening which has detailed information regarding the trip, including a kit list.

Yours faithfully,

Mr G Taylor
Ski Trip Leader

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Headteacher
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