

St. Michael's Church of England (VA) Junior School

By God's Love, we all flourish together

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23rd April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

AYLMERTON 2020-21 VISIT

We are deeply disappointed to inform you that we have taken the decision today to cancel the Year 6 trip to Aylmerton this year. All monies previously paid will be refunded via your ParentPay account in due course.

This decision has not been taken lightly. We originally rescheduled the visit to 5th July, hoping that by then restrictions would have been removed for school residentials and that the risk of Covid infections would be minimal. However, we have still not received updated guidance regarding residential trips and are still uncertain whether the risk to a member of staff or student, whilst on the trip has been fully eliminated. The only guidance we have had from the DfE to date is:

“Domestic Residential Educational Visits

In line with the roadmap, we advise against domestic residential educational visits until at least step 3, no earlier than 17 May.

The roadmap is driven by data not dates. The approach to domestic residential visits is dependent on the roadmap and is subject to change.”

We cannot at this point be entirely certain that sufficient controls are in place or that the children would have the experience this year that they would have had at Aylmerton before the Pandemic.

In addition, we have now had confirmation that the Induction Days at Great Baddow High School, where a large contingent of our current Year 6 children are destined, will be occurring during the week of 5th July. We are still waiting for confirmation of dates for the other secondary schools, but we do feel that it is vitally important, given the disruption over the last year, that the children be allowed to take advantage of these transition events.

Plans are now being made by the Year 6 teachers to hold various activity days for the Year 6 pupils to enjoy, to try to make up for their cancelled trip. Further details will be sent out to you when plans have been finalised.

We are all incredibly upset that this decision has had to be taken, having liaised with Aylmerton repeatedly over the last 6 months and hoping we had come to an arrangement that would be safe for all. We do however feel that this is the right decision to make in the current circumstances and trust that you will understand.

Yours sincerely,

Rowen Prigg
Headteacher

