

AIMS

Aspiration, Inspiration, Motivation, Success

Residential Visits



Residential Visits

During their time at Oughtibridge Primary School every child in Key Stage 2 has the opportunity to take part in four residential visits involving nights away from home. These form a progressive build up from a one night 'sleepover' in Year 3, to a full week away in Y6. The visits are a fundamental part of the education of the children at Oughtibridge and help to build self-confidence, working as a team, maturity, independence and knowledge of the world. Long after they leave the school, these occasions are the ones that the children remember and, in many cases, affect them most.

Year group	Visit	Timing	Duration	Approximate cost
Y3	Whirlow Hall Farm, Sheffield	Autumn 1	2 x $\frac{1}{2}$ days 1 night	£35
Y4	Hollowford Centre, Castleton	Spring 2	2 days 1 night	£70
Y5	Thornbridge Outdoor Centre, Bakewell	Autumn 1	3 days 2 nights	£90
Y6	PGL Caythorpe Court, Lincolnshire	Summer 2	5 days 4 nights	£360

Parents are given notice of a residential visit well in advance. They are invited to a meeting outlining the running of the visit and the activities the children may be involved in. Parents are asked to pay in full for residential visits. A payment scheme is set up for the more expensive visits to spread the cost.

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[Year 3](#)

[Year 4](#)

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[Year 6](#)



In Y3, when the children are 7, they take part in a single night away from home with two half days of activities. Currently we go to Whirlow Hall Farm, a small residential centre on the south side of Sheffield. Whirlow Hall Farm Trust is a Sheffield charity that brings children and young people to a real working farm. The children visit the various animals, enjoy farm related activities and for many, spend their first night away from home. This trip usually takes place early in the Autumn term. The children have a memorable experience of the countryside and it helps teach them about where their food comes from.



The accommodation is a hall set in 138 acres of beautiful farmland. It is a converted nineteenth century farmhouse. It is situated in the heart of the working farm and has a fantastic garden to explore.

On arrival the children are always given a health and safety talk before they set off to explore their new surroundings. The farm tour is exciting as they are introduced to a wide variety of farm animals. Tea is a chance for them to meet together and discuss the rest of their stay. The Midnight Walk (between 6.30 and 7.00!) is the highlight for many, as torches are used to guide the way.

The following morning the children are ready bright and early to assist the farmer with his daily jobs. These include egg collecting and grading, grooming ponies, feeding goats and cleaning out the rabbits and guinea pigs. All too soon it is time to return to school with some very much quieter and sleepy children!

In Y4, the children spend two full days and one night away. The visit is based in the Derbyshire village of Castleton. The accommodation is at the Hollowford Centre which is an ideal venue for this experience. It is located in the heart of the Peak District National Park and is surrounded by hills including the famous Shivering Mountain - Mam Tor.

Hollowford Centre provides an excellent base for outdoor activities. Caves, crags, rivers, limestone dales and rugged gritstone moors are typical of the environment. The centre is modern and well equipped with excellent on-site facilities.

Many activities make this a rewarding experience for all, such as visiting castle ruins, walking up part of a road that has moved so much by a landslide that it is now impassable, going underground in one of the many caverns and solving challenging practical problems on site.



The evening is spent playing games, tackling a number of challenges and then settling down for bed. Eventually tiredness takes over after a day in the open air and peace reigns!

In Y5, the children are given the opportunity to go on a three day residential visit to the Thornbridge Outdoors Centre in Derbyshire. The centre is run by Sheffield City Council and located near Great Longstone, in the heart of the Peak District a few miles outside Bakewell. The extensive 55-acre site includes self-catering accommodation, with children sleeping four or six in a room, and a host of exciting on-site and off-site activities.



Although most of the children will have experienced a residential in earlier years, this trip offers them the opportunity to challenge their abilities even further. Three days sees the children doing everything from making their own bed to preparing food, washing the dishes and generally keeping their accommodation in first class order.

Away from the household chores, they are faced with a wide choice of activities to challenge them in every way possible - both physically and mentally. The activities start straight after breakfast and can include: mountain biking, sky ropes, low ropes, weaselling (safely crawling through narrow gaps in fallen rocks on Higger Tor) and orienteering.



After tea, the action continues with night walks up the moon-lit Monsal Trail, a night line through the pitch dark forest or a camp fire with toasted marshmallows and hot chocolate!

All the children tend to return from the three day residential visit to Thornbridge with a wealth of character building stories ranging from 'I've never had to make my own sandwiches before,' to 'I was terrified when I first saw how high the sky-ropes were but I felt tremendous when I got round!'

In Y6, the children have the opportunity to experience their longest residential visit - a whole week away at PGL's Caythorpe Court Activity Centre in Lincolnshire. The visit is planned for after SATs, something to look forward to after all their hard work. The aims of this residential visit are to build children's confidence, their ability to work as a team, develop leadership skills and to have lots of fun! The ethos at PGL is 'challenge by choice' - children are never pushed beyond their comfort zone, but fully trained instructors are very successful in nurturing and supporting even the most apprehensive child.



Mornings and afternoons are each split into two separate sessions so that children can experience up to 4 different activities every day. Activities can range from abseiling, climbing and archery to kayaking, raft building and quad biking. Children are kept busy from breakfast time to bed time, with a wealth of activities and games. They also have the support of a PGL 'groupie', who meets the children before and after each activity, accompanies them to the canteen at

meal times and runs entertainment sessions in the evenings.

PGL builds on the experience children have gained in previous residential and provides an opportunity to children to push themselves in ways they have never had chance to before, whether that is finally finding the courage to jump off a platform to catch a trapeze, working as team to reach the top of 'Jacob's Ladder' or taking on the zip wire or giant swing!