



5th September 2017

Dear parents,

Sponsored Walk 2017 Friday 29th September

Why the School is organising a Sponsored Walk

Every two or three years the school organises a sponsored walk which provides a challenging and rewarding experience for the pupils and helps raise money for the school. In the past facilities such as the Sports Hall, Study Centre, Language College suite of rooms and the covered way between Ranmore and Bradley have been supported by the Sponsored Walk along with our school charities.

This year we wish to raise funds for a lightweight minibus which will enable more staff to use it in the course of offering our wide range of extra-curricular activities. In the past you have demonstrated tremendous commitment and enthusiasm by raising money for the school. The bus will cost £25,000. We would like pupils to try and raise as much as they are able and we will be grateful for every contribution.

Whilst on the walk we are encouraging pupils to appreciate the countryside around them. There will be a photographic competition open to all pupils who wish to enter a photo taken during the Sponsored Walk. The winning entries will be made into a calendar which will be on sale prior to Christmas. Money raised from the calendar sales will also go towards the minibus.

Route

The 16km route from school will go via Denbies Vineyard to the Rectory on Ranmore Common. From there we will go to Bagden Farm, Polesden Lacey, Westhumble and then return to school.

Collecting Money

The aim is to raise as much money as possible and in order to maximise sponsorships, please tick the gift aid consent box if you are able. There are two ways pupils can collect money:

- Pupils can use the attached form and ask people to write down sponsorship details
- There is a Just Giving link that can be found at campaign.justgiving.com/charity/ashcombe-trust/minibus-appeal

Arrangements for the day

Registration will be as normal for Years 7-11 and Lower Sixth. The youngest pupils will start first followed by the other year groups at regular intervals. We are asking the Upper Sixth to act as marshals along the route and they will need to leave earlier, registering at 7.45am in the Sixth Form Common Room. When pupils finish, they will be instructed to report to those staff who have remained in school at the Ranmore canteen. Pupils will have their checkpoint cards stamped by staff and be registered so as to ensure that we know that they have returned to school safely. They will then be permitted to return home. They must not wander around the town. If they prefer to wait for the contract coaches they may do so. Pupils not participating in the event for any reason will be supervised in school and work will be set for them.

Clothing and footwear

For a walk of 16km appropriate clothing is very important. Robust footwear is essential. It is prudent to heed the weather forecast to decide on the type of clothing for the walk, but we offer the following guidance:

- those pupils returning home by public transport must bring clean shoes and trousers to wear for the journey home in case bad weather makes the route muddy. Coach operators do not like dirty upholstery!
- the walk is mainly across countryside, and conditions may be damp especially at the start of the day



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- consider packing a waterproof if the weather forecast is uncertain. Denims are not advisable in wet weather
- some form of sun protection/lip salve and a cap may be advisable if sunny weather is forecast
- pupils dressed inappropriately will not be allowed to participate.

Food

Pupils should bring a packed lunch and snacks for the walk. It is also important that pupils bring a drink. There will be a limited food service available from the canteen before and after the walk, and snacks and water will be sold at two locations during the walk. Pupils entitled to free school meals should pre-order their lunch by Monday 25th September (forms available from Ranmore Office) and collect before registration on the day. We expect all pupils to assume a responsible attitude towards preventing litter by taking it home with them.

Health, safety and supervision

We hope to have St John Ambulance personnel posted at regular intervals throughout the walk and we will ensure that adequate supervision and directions are given to pupils by those members of staff, parents and Sixth Formers who will be marshals. Through assemblies and in tutor periods prior to the day information will be given to all participants. Pupils are also expected to take a responsible attitude towards their own safety. Staff will be walking with the pupils and there will be supervision at specific points along the route. Inhalers and Epipens must be brought by those pupils who have need of them. We will be using the data collection sheets sent to you at the beginning of term as the source of medical information for the walk. If your son/daughter has a medical issue that we are not already aware of, please contact the Pupil Services Desk with details.

Behaviour

It is very important that when so many pupils are out in the community at the same time a high standard of behaviour and responsibility is demonstrated. Staff reserve the right to determine who walks with whom. There is also a collective duty to ensure that we respect the countryside as we do have the privilege of walking in a very beautiful part of the county. In the interests of pupil safety all headphones should remain in rucksacks and out of sight during the walk.

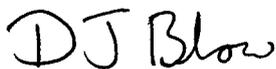
How you can help

On all recent Sponsored Walks we have been given valuable assistance by parents who have volunteered to act as marshals. We would like to repeat the invitation to you and would ask you to email Mr Panting on panting.chris@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk if you can participate in some way.

As the Sponsored Walk is a local trip, we will not need completed consent forms from every pupil. However if you do not wish your son/daughter to take part in the event please contact Mrs Reed reed.alison@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk by Friday 22nd September. Any pupil unable to complete the walk for any reason will be supervised in school.

If the weather forecast is really bad we will postpone the event and we will have a normal school day. However, let us hope that this will not be the case this year and that everyone has an enjoyable day that benefits the school.

Yours sincerely,



D.J. Blow
Headteacher