



"An Academy to be Proud of"

Headteacher | Mr M. Kilmurray BA (Hons), NPQH
Lytham Road | Blackpool | Lancashire FY4 1TL
t: 01253 207702 | e: admin@armfield.fcat.org.uk

Friday 27th March 2026 - 4th April 2026

Austria Ski Trip

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are getting closer until we depart for our ski trip to Austria! 15 days....

Please find the kit list attached. We advise all students to bring travel sickness tablets with them. From our experience, a 26 hour coach journey and a ferry can make the invincible get travel sickness, **so we recommend that every child takes a travel sickness tablet if possible.**

All students are in a google classroom where information gets posted regularly about the trip.

Hoodies have been ordered and will be distributed on Thursday 26th March, all students are required to wear them on the journey as it helps us differentiate our students from the public and other schools when at service stations and on the ferry.

We recommend a maximum of £100 spending money (mixture of pound and euro) if they want to purchase anything additional whilst on the mountains, or during our evening activities. **Breakfast, lunch and tea are not included on the journey there or back** so students will need to bring a packed lunch or funds to purchase at service stations / on the ferry. We recommend a mixture of cash and card where possible.

If you are wanting to rent a ski jacket and ski pants, please do so through the Interski website here interski.co.uk/rental

The Departure date 27/03/2026, the party leaders surname- Panepinto, and please choose 'Travelling with another operator'.

Passports and GHIC cards are required to be handed in by Friday 28th February 2026 (first week after half term). These will be put in the school safe. If you have not applied for your **free** GHIC card then you need to do so here: <https://overseas-healthcare.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/get-healthcare-cover-travelling-abroad/start>

This needs to be in the name of your child. **Your child will not be able to attend the ski trip if they do not have a GHIC card.** This needs to be done ASAP so they receive it in plenty of time.

I will keep hold of passports for the duration of the trip. Students will carry a photocopy of their passport, with their GHIC card and a copy of their medical consent form. If you do not provide me with your child's GHIC card or your child loses their GHIC (will be told to keep it in a pocket and never to take it out) then you will be liable to pay for any medical costs incurred on the trip whilst an insurance claim is made.

Students are having regular meetings every Friday morning during form time for any information to be given to them. Our last meeting will be Thursday 26th March 2026 at 8:30am in the sports hall. Please ensure your child is there as there will be last minute information.

Students need to be aware of the ski way code and are not allowed to go on the slopes unless this is watched, it can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwprQDLhHE>





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Please ensure students are doing some exercises which will help with skiing.

If you have not already followed @Ski Armfield on X (previously known as Twitter) to get updates whilst students are on the trip, pictures will be posted of students skiing and enjoying the activities. This will also be a way of informing parents and guardians updates on our journey home for timings. If you would NOT like your child being posted on Twitter please contact me directly at e.panepinto@armfield.fcat.org.uk to inform me of this. However it allows you to be updated on your child throughout the trip.

If you do not want any pictures being taken of your child and posted on X please contact me directly at e.panepinto@armfield.fcat.org.uk to inform me of this.

Ensure you speak to mobile networks about the use of mobile phones abroad (we travel through France, Italy, Germany and Austria). If you do not sort this, it could result in additional roaming charges abroad.

Students are to bring one medium size case (soft material where possible) and a small hand luggage to fit under the seat, usually a rucksack. A small case will not be permitted as hand luggage and your child will not be able to bring it.

Due to severe allergies, please ensure that **no nuts** are brought on the coach. Students will not be able to go to the toilet before we set off at school so please ensure they have gone before meeting outside of school.

Whilst we are on the trip, my contact number is 07776691458. This is for emergencies only and you will be charged whatever your mobile phone providers costs are as the phone is not in the UK. Students will not be contactable whilst on the slopes 9am-4pm. For whatever emergency please contact me through this number or your child in the evening. We will be 1 hour ahead and remember updates on our journey home will be posted on X (Twitter).

We will put time aside for students to go to the supermarket to pick up any snacks and souvenirs before we leave.

Please ensure luggage is checked by yourselves before we leave. **If we suspect any illegal substances, we have the right to search a student's luggage / room.**

Please ensure students have a minimum of 3 pairs of ski socks and 1 is to be kept in hand luggage as when we arrive, we go straight to the ski and boot hire to check fittings. Please check the PowerPoint emailed after the parents evening from January to find the check list. (Helmets are provided). It is 1 case per person to be put into the hold section of the coach and 1 small hand luggage that is to fit under the seat.

Toothbrush and toothpaste should be kept in hand luggage. Students will not have access to their luggage until we arrive. We also recommend a pillow and blanket for the coach journey.

Students should have sensible clothes for the evening as it will be cold at night when we go out. Sturdy shoes are preferable.





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Medication can be handed to Miss Frankel on the morning of departure to be looked after (if you require), this needs to be clearly named and with the dosage. Please ensure if your child gets travel sick then please provide travel sickness tablets as we will be on the coach for 26 hours and a ferry. If your child suffers from migraines and headaches it is your responsibility to provide any tablets they may need for this; please hand in to a member of staff on the day of departure. **Students who suffer from asthma will need to be responsible for their own inhalers** as on the mountains they need to keep hold of it on their person. **Please ensure that all medication for any reason is provided and in date.**

Spending money can be handed to Mr Walters to act as a 'bank'. The bank will be open each evening for a period of time, students will be able to get as much out as they please but Mr Walters will keep it safe. Some places will accept card payments, but not for small amounts so please make sure that your child has some cash if they are wanting to buy a drink etc. Some card companies charge for payments abroad so please check with banks about their charges abroad.

You will need to arrive at the front of school **before 5:45am** on Friday 27th March 2026, staff will be there from 5:15am. School will not be open. The coach will pick us up outside school on Lytham Road at 6am so we need to ensure we are ready. Due to us being booked onto a specific ferry, timings are very important and means we do not have the capacity to wait around so please ensure you are on time as it cannot be guaranteed that the coach will wait if you are late. Previously the coach has had USB charging ports but it could be the current USB-C. Travel adapters will be required in Austria and will need to be brought. It is the classic European 2 pin design.

We are aiming to be in Austria for lunch time on Saturday 28th March. As we embark our journey home, we will leave Austria at 8:00am on Friday 3rd April and the ETA (estimated time arrival) for being back at Armfield academy on Saturday 4th April is at noon, 12:00pm.

New Entry / Exit system (EES) for travellers visiting the Schengen area.

EES is a new EU border system that digitally records travel in/out of the Schengen Area.

These new border checks for travellers were introduced from October 12th 2025.

Please see some key information on EES below :

- Non-EU travellers will need to give biometric details (fingerprints and a photo) at their first entry into the Schengen area and answer questions about your visit.
- There is no cost for EES.
- No action is needed before travel
- EES may result in queues so we must allow more time at the border
- There is a phased implementation of EES from October 12th 2025 until April 10th 2026. During this implementation period you may or may not be required to carry out the EES checks at the border. After April 10th 2026 EES checks will be mandatory.
- Fingerprints are only taken for children aged 12+ but other EES checks such as the photo / questions apply to all ages.
- There is no specific information yet about how this will work for school groups, for example, how they will process a coach full of children at Dover.
- ETIAS is a totally different entry requirement that will not be introduced until Q4 2026.

This is likely to happen when we are crossing the border for the ski trip to Austria.





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All students and parents / guardians have signed a code of conduct form. If students cannot follow these instructions it can result in time away from skiing. Balconies are off limits in the hotel room. The use of foul language is not permitted as we are still representing the school and travelling with all year groups.

Year 11 students are required to catch up on any work missed from Friday 27th March.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact if you have any queries before we go.

Yours sincerely,
Miss E Panepinto
Miss L Frankel
Mr L Crewdson

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l.crewdson@armfield.fcat.org.uk

