

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

At the moment the trip to Iceland in February 2021 will be going ahead. The advice to schools is to assume that trips will go ahead unless and until the Foreign and Commonwealth Office issues travel advice for the period of the trip. Although we can't predict what may happen over the next few months, we are expecting that the trip will go ahead as planned, and the tour operator requires us to meet their payment schedule as it is unlikely that travel advice for February will have been issued when the final payment is due. We are asking parents to continue to make payments to meet the deadline, or to let us know as soon as possible if they wish to cancel as cancellation charges increase as time goes on.

We stopped sending reminders for the trip during lockdown because we were aware that some people were furloughed or unable to work and may not have been in a position to make the payments as usual. However, we have to make the final payment to the travel company in September, so we have resumed the reminders although we understand that these payments are a big undertaking and circumstances may have changed over the last few months.

If the trip can't go ahead the tour operator NST is backed by ATOL and ABTA, so our payments will be protected and parents will be refunded. The school cannot choose to cancel the trip at this stage without guidance from the FCO or the tour operator as we will lose the payments we have made to date. If parents wish to withdraw their child at any stage the amount to be refunded would be the amount paid less the £125 deposit and any further cancellation charges imposed by the tour operator. Any refund would be made after the trip once all costs are known.

Towards the beginning of November, we will be required to provide a valid passport number to the travel company for all persons on the trip. If your child's passport needs renewing we would advise this is done soon as there has been a significant backlog for passport renewals and new passport issues over the summer. Also, as per the launch letter, specialist kit including waterproof boots, waterproof and windproof jacket, thermals etc. are required for the trip, we would advise these are purchased nearer the time and will send more information out then.

We will be liaising very closely with NST over the coming months and will keep parents updated throughout. However, if you do have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us at school.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs S Thomasson



Mrs J McCutcheon