

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

BEAMINSTER
DORSET DT8 3EP

Tel: 01308 862633
Fax: 01308 863909
Absences: 01308 861917

Email: office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk



HEADTEACHER
MR K HALES NPQH

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER
MR D WITHERS NPQH

Website: www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

21st September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Ski Trip to Saalbach, February 2023

Thank you for making continued payments towards the Ski Trip in February. Everyone is looking forward to the trip and this is a courtesy letter to keep you updated.

The wheels of organisation are turning in the background and everything is on course as originally planned. We are set to depart from Beaminster on the 10th of February 2023, during school hours. The final departure time is yet to be agreed. We will be travelling over night via executive coach to Maishofen for 6 days of skiing Saalbach Hinterglemm. We have booked out sole use of a lovely looking hotel with great reviews called "Gasthof Zur Post". We leave Austria the following Friday in the evening and then should be returning the Beaminster in the afternoon/evening of Saturday the 18th of February 2023.

There are a couple of really important things to remind everyone about.

1. **Passports**

The journey will involve transiting through Germany, France, possibly Belgium and of course Austria. Therefore, please ensure your child has a valid and up to date passport ready for the trip. Current passport applications have been reported in the news as taking a long time, so if your child doesn't currently have a valid passport ready for the trip. I urge you start the application sooner rather than later. Students will not be allowed to begin travel from Beaminster with us unless they have a valid passport.

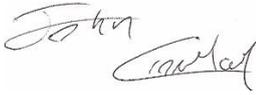
When looking into it, there is un-clear information and advice about passport requirements for under 18s into the EU. Within the EU, passport requirements do vary slightly from country to country. To be on the safe side, a child's passport (anyone under the age of 18) must have been issued within the 5 years prior to travel, and have at least 3 months validity left on it from the date of return (6 months remaining validity is safest). Therefore, for our trip, student passports should be in their own name and have been issued no earlier than 19th February 2018 and expire no earlier than 19th August 2023. If your child's passport does not meet these criteria I would ask you please to get it renewed. We cannot risk any chance of any child on the coach not being allowed entry to any country whilst we are on route. If your child has any nationality passport other than British please get in touch so we can check relevant travel advice.

2. **EHIC / GHIC cards**. Each student will need to have an in date, valid 'GHIC' (Global Health Insurance Card) to ensure that they are covered by insurance and for any emergency medical treatment abroad. Please note, I had to apply for cards for my own children recently. In order to get them a card, I had to do an application for a new card for myself and then add them to my application as children under 16 can't complete their own application but children must have their own card in their own name. This is a free card to apply for, beware of websites which try to charge you for the application process. Again, students will need to bring this with them on the trip and without a card we can't let students travel as they won't be covered by our travel insurance.

3. **Ongoing travel restrictions** in Europe. – According to gov.uk, there are currently no COVID travel restrictions for entry, travel or transiting through, France, Germany, Austria or Belgium. I hope that nothing will change and our travel will not be hindered or affected by COVID restrictions. But please be aware that pre-travel COVID testing or proof of up to date immunisation may become a requirement and we will continue to monitor this situation.

Towards the end of this term I will organise a parents information meeting to run through various important information, such as required clothing and equipment, so please keep your eyes on your parent mail account for a letter regarding exactly when this will be, but don't be afraid to get in touch if you have any queries.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'John Crossland'.

Mr Crossland
Head of Science
Ski Trip 2023 Leader