

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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8th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Ski Trip Update

With less than 5 school weeks to go, February half term will be around in the blink of an eye, therefore, I am sending out this important information now as this provides plenty of time for last minute preparations and for me to answer any questions you may have. Please read this information carefully and ensure everything is understood.

Passports and GHIC/EHIC cards

Please can you bring or send your child's **passport** and **GHIC/EHIC card** in to school **as soon as possible**. Please ensure they are in an envelope with the student's full name and the words "PASSPORT FOR SKI TRIP" clearly written on the front. These documents will need to be signed for at Reception to confirm they have been received by the school, and will then be stored securely in the school safe.

These documents are required in advance as I need to make copies of both documents for insurance coverage, and to check they are valid for travel. Should you need to use these documents before we travel in February please let me know.

Without these documents your son/daughter will not be allowed to come on the trip. Please also contact me immediately if your son/daughter still does not have a passport, or is planning to travel on anything other than a British passport.

Travel Details

We are set to board the coach at Beaminster School bus park at **10am** on Friday 9th February ready to depart at **10.30am**. Please note that this is slightly earlier than originally anticipated so please plan accordingly.

If required, students can arrive in school at their normal time on Friday morning, dressed ready to travel in their ski trip hoodie, and can drop travel bags with myself at the Sports Hall from 8.40am onwards. They can then attend morning registration, go to period 1 as normal and then head back up to the bus park 15 minutes before the end of period 1 at 9.55am.

Parents who wish to bring their child to school and see the bus depart, can do so, but **please do not block the first few bus bays with cars as the coach will need space to manoeuvre**, and **please do not arrive before 9.45am** as Mountjoy School students will still be arriving.

Please do keep a close eye on ParentMail for any further travel time updates, as last year travel arrangements did change. As it stands, boarding time is 10am to be ready for a **10.30am departure**.

Medication

Any medication will be held by staff. A reminder to ensure that any medication a student may require is in a clearly labelled container/ziplock bag with the **student's full name** on it. If any specific dosing schedule is required please ensure this is clearly indicated and that I am informed in advance.

Luggage

Hand Luggage

Please ensure that students bring **one** piece of hand luggage with supplies for a 24-hour coach journey, including some spending money. It is a good idea to wear ski coats on the coach as they can double up as soft warm layers and pillows if needed. Please remember to pack some **basic toiletries** in your hand luggage such as a toothbrush and small tube of toothpaste and any required period products. This hand luggage bag will double up as a day bag.

Hold Luggage

Please pack your hold luggage well and into a bag of sensible size (PGL state **70cm X 35cm X 35cm**) and remember that any items in the hold will not be accessible for the duration of the journey.

Keeping Updated

I have set up a dedicated Twitter-style web feed for parents and carers to be able to follow our progress throughout the week and will be uploading posts about our adventures here for parents to see.

This is accessible at: www.padlet.com/jcrossland/ski the password is **beaminsterski** (one word, all lower case).

The site is updated using an app and although I cannot guarantee I will be able to update it every day I will do my very best to keep a regular feed going. The school Facebook page will also have trip photographs of students enjoying the week (please note that this may not be possible until we return).

Ski Parks, Jumps and Ski Obstacles

Throughout the week students will progress and instructors of ski groups may want to take students through beginner ski parks with small jumps and obstacles (often called 'boxes' or beginner 'rails'). Students often ask instructors to do this, and they will do so only having given proper tuition and when they are happy that the students are confident and at an appropriate level of skiing. This is still classed as on piste activity and is insured, but doing this does come with increased risk of injury.

I have been asked by Dorset Council to ensure that all parents and carers fully understand that this may happen and therefore give their consent for the instructors to take their child into these areas.

For completeness, I will be issuing students with a permission slip to return to me for this and any students without consent will be required to ski around the obstacles. Students will not have to do any jumps or obstacles if they do not want to.

I am aware that there is a lot of information in this letter, but I have tried to cover all the most recent details and relevant updates.

Please do continue to keep an eye on ParentMail for any further updates and don't hesitate to get in touch should you have any queries: JCrossland@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

Kind regards
Mr J Crossland
Ski Trip Leader