



## Temple Grafton Church of England Primary School

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Mrs S. Hendry  
Head Teacher



Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to have, again, been offered the opportunity to try our hands at the art of 'Bell-boating', a water-based activity using a 'bell-boat' - a twin-hulled, stable craft with up to 12 people in a crew.

Not only will this provide our children with an ideal introduction to canoeing and water sports, (the bell boat providing a safe environment and a stable platform) it will also act as an excellent team building activity, encouraging co-operation and a desire to work as one, as the seated crew paddle together to achieve their goal. With more than one team, we will be able to enjoy some friendly competition and a variety of games on the day, helping to build skills and water-confidence.

Each crew-member will be wearing buoyancy aids and each bell-boat will include two adults in their crew. Children must wear plenty of layers - joggers, t-shirts, sweat-tops, old trainers/shoes (but NOT wellies) - and may bring waterproof tops and trousers, if they have them. In addition, bring a hat/cap, gloves, spare clothes and a towel. Should the weather be very sunny, a good application of water-proof sun-tan lotion is advisable. The children will be spending the whole school day by the river, expending lots of energy and so plenty of snacks, drinks, (non-fizzy) and a packed lunch will be required, please.

As the activity day will be based on the river Avon at Bidford, we would ask for children to be dropped at the river by 9 am on **Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> October** and collected again by 3 pm, helping to keep the costs to a minimum. In order for the trip to take place we need to ask for a voluntary contribution of £4 per child. This will cover the cost of the activities. There is no obligation for you to pay, but if we do not receive contributions from the majority of the class we will have to cancel. Please speak to me or Mrs Hendry, in confidence, if paying will cause a problem for you. Payments will be set up on School Money or you can send cash or cheque in to school with the reply slip.

Drop-off and pick-up will be at the car park by the bridge in Bidford-on-Avon, on the opposite side to the village, i.e. as you leave the village and cross over the bridge, the car park is on the right. I will be there from 8:45, so you are welcome to drop your child from this time, should you need to. As the bridge is currently closed to vehicles, we suggest that you park in the Saxon Fields carpark near the roundabout or, if you are travelling from south of the bridge, there is a free carpark just before the Big Meadow on the left hand side.

The organiser, (a senior British Canoe Union coach and qualified school teacher) will be holding a regatta on the following **Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October**, 1pm – 4pm approx for some friendly inter-school competition.

To support us with the organisation and planning for this trip, could you please complete and sign the attached slip and **return** it to school by **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September** .

Many thanks for your support of this exciting opportunity,

Mrs Gray

I/we give permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to take part in the Bell-boating activity on **Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> October** and I enclose a voluntary contribution of £4/will pay by School Money.

My/our son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_ will / will not be available for the regatta on **Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October**,

\*\*If you, your child or any member of your family have difficulty in accessing the school and/or the school's facilities and services,

please contact the School Office for assistance.\*\*