

Friday, 6th September 2019

Re: Bell-boating, Bidford-on-Avon – Tuesday, 24th September 2019

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 bank by 9 am on **Tuesday, 24th September** and collected again by 3 pm. 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 and so you are welcome to drop your child from this time, should you need to.

The organiser, (a senior British Canoe Union coach and qualified school teacher) will be holding a regatta on the following **Saturday, 5th October**, 1pm – 4pm (approximately) for some friendly inter-school competition.

To aid us in the organisation and planning of this trip, could you please complete and sign the attached slip and **return** it to school by **Monday, 16th September**.

Many thanks for your support of this exciting opportunity,

Mrs Gray

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I/we give permission for _____ to take part in the Bell-boating activity on **Tuesday 24th September**

Signed _____

