

Tuesday, 29th September 2020

Re: Bell-boating, Stratford on Avon – Thursday, 8th October 2020

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 advised. 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.

Due to the closure of the Bidford toilets from October 1st, this year's activity day will be based on the River Avon at **Stratford**. We would ask for children to be dropped at the grass area at the back of the rowing club and in front of the River Bank Restaurant (where the Ferris Wheel is situated at the moment) **by 9:10 a.m. on Thursday, 8th October** and collected again **by 2:45 p.m.**, from the same location. (Please see the attached map.)

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, Andy Train is a senior British Canoe Union coach and qualified school teacher.

To aid us in the organisation and planning of this trip, could you please ***email consent to Miss Britt at admin3066@welearn365.com by Monday, 5th October.***

Many thanks for your support of this exciting opportunity,

Mrs Pellet-Ward

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SAFETY AND HYGIENE ADVICE

Paddle-sport on placid water is an enjoyable and safe activity provided buoyancy aids are worn and people are aware of water hygiene. There is now a general awareness of Weil's Disease which is a rare illness to which water users may be exposed. The most common symptoms are: a high temperature; influenza-like illness, joint and muscle pains, particularly in the calf muscles.

Anyone falling ill with the symptoms after fishing, sailing, paddle or other water sports, particularly within the three weeks following the activity, **MUST** see a doctor and advise him or her of the activity taken part in.

To prevent infection: Cover scratches and cuts with water-proof plasters **AND** wash or shower after water-based activities, particularly before eating.

