

# Hawthorn Community Primary School

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2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of children in years 5 and 6,

I am writing to confirm that unfortunately it has not been possible to arrange a year 5 and 6 school residential this year. I appreciate that this may be very disappointing for the children, particularly those in year 6 who will be moving on to secondary school in September and will not have another chance at primary school to experience a residential trip, but despite our best efforts, we are unable to staff a residential visit this year.

Although we try our best to organise a trip each year, so that all of the children who would like to have the option of attending a residential, there have been a number of occasions when this has proved to be difficult. In 2016 and 2017 we were unable to organise a residential because there were not enough staff who volunteered to undertake the trip. This followed a bad experience in 2015 when the children on that year's residential were brought home early because of a severe bout of sickness and diarrhoea amongst the children and staff. In 2018 we were able to reintroduce the residential experience and organised a trip to the Isle of Wight, which was then repeated in 2019. However, last year's trip was also threatened at the last minute when the group leader was forced to drop out through illness.

A number of parents have questioned whether it would be possible to use staff from one of the other Pathfinder schools to man this trip, but unfortunately these staff would not know our children and we do not feel that organising a trip with staff who are strangers to the children would be an acceptable alternative.

During the summer term we are looking to provide our upper key stage 2 children with other opportunities to celebrate their time at Hawthorn and further develop their independence skills.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Clubley'.

Julie Clubley  
Headteacher

