



Mortlock Street, Melbourn, Nr Royston, Herts SG8 6DB Tel: 01763 223457

Headteacher: Mrs Stephanie Wilcox

9th February 2012

Dear Parents

In recent years, the Year Four Grafham trip has always centred on land based activities only. This year, we would like to include a water-sport on the programme for the first time. As well as climbing, abseiling, archery and 'The Grafham Challenge', we would also like the children to take part in a canoeing session. We feel that the children would benefit greatly from an experience such as this, and have chosen canoeing for beginners; it is the easiest of the water-sports available. The canoes are open, and long which makes them very stable, and are initially rafted together, to further increase their stability.

During canoeing every safety aspect is clearly explained to everybody. At the start of the session, the children are encouraged to check each other's buoyancy aids, giving them responsibility, with the Instructors completing the final checks. If on the day, the weather is deemed unsuitable, an alternative land based activity would be provided.

Below is some safety information from the Grafham water centre website: **www.grafham-water-centre.co.uk**

Grafham water centre is registered and licensed by the Adventure Activities Licensing Service (AALS). Regular inspections of the Centre are completed of the facilities, equipment and instruction given. Centres are only approved and licensed once all criteria have been successfully met.

The Centre is a BCU (British Canoe Union) and RYA (Royal Yachting Association) approved Centre. These two organisations assures you that any course at Grafham Water Centre is provided by qualified and experienced staff, with the correct equipment that meets safety standards.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child taking part in canoeing during the Grafham trip, please feel free to speak to Mrs Youngs, or the school office. We hope that all the children will be able to participate in this exciting new addition to the programme!

Yours faithfully

Mrs Youngs - Grafham trip leader

Email: office@melbourn.cambs.sch.uk

Website: www.melbournprimary.org.uk

