



Year 5 Residential Trip
Bowles Outdoor Centre, Tunbridge Wells
Wednesday 10th February to Friday 12th February 2027

Dear Parent/Carer,

Many of you will already know about our Year 5 residential school trip to the Bowles Centre in Tunbridge Wells.

At the centre, the children will have the opportunity to take part in a range of activities which may include skiing, canoeing (in a heated indoor pool), scrambling, rock climbing and a range of teambuilding exercises.

The children (and school staff) will usually stay in newly built accommodation. Meals will be eaten together in the dining hall. All activities take place on site; the children will work in groups of 10 – 12, each with a member of school staff. All activities will be led by qualified Bowles Centre instructors.

The trip aims to build self-confidence and self-esteem, to develop teamwork and co-operation as well as problem solving and decision-making skills. It is our experience that **all** the children benefit from the trip. Apart from the new skills learnt, it is an opportunity to sleep away from home, to organise their personal belongings, to make their beds to a standard, which will pass inspection, to socialise with their friends and the staff.

We choose to run this trip in year 5 so that the children can continue to make full use of the experience of living and working together, in a way which is very different to the school environment.

As the visit involves a residential stay, we do need to ask parents/carers to pay. Over the last few years, the cost of the trip has risen considerably but by moving the date of the trip to the 3 days before February half term, we were able to cut the cost in half. We have therefore decided to stick to this time of year to keep the cost down for parents.

The cost of the trip in total will be **£240.00**. The children get 2 nights away and the activities they will do are suitable for the weather and temperature.

If you are concerned about the cost, please speak to a member of staff. If we do not receive adequate payment, we would have to cancel the trip which is something we would not wish to do but may not have an option.

There will be a meeting nearer the time of the trip to finalise details but if you have any questions/concerns please do come in and see me.

The trip is optional and if your child chooses not to go then they will stay in school and complete activities.

In the meantime, could I ask that you complete the slip attached whether you require a place or not and return it to the school.

We are enabling parents to pay via the school money system at Eduspot (<https://eduspot.co.uk/>) here you can pay the deposit and then the rest of the trip payments will be made available a week or so later. You can, if you wish, pay in instalments and you may begin this as soon as the expression of interest slips are returned. This ensures it is not put onto children's accounts as an outstanding payment, for those who do not wish to attend.

The money will be held in this system, and should the trip be cancelled, immediately refunded into the account from which you have paid. I hope this will reassure parents in such uncertain times, as it enables the trip to be paid for in plenty of time should it go ahead, as well as giving the option of easily refunding if it is cancelled.

However, if the deposit has been paid and you decide you do not wish for your child to attend then this is non-refundable.

Deposits of £50 would need to be paid by Friday 12th June 2026

The total cost of the trip will need to be paid by Monday 9th November 2026.

Yours sincerely

The Hornbeam Team



PERMISSION SLIP

Bowles Trip – 10th – 12th February 2027

☐ I would like to secure a place on the Bowles trip and have paid a £50 Deposit.

☐ My child does not wish to go on the Bowles trip

Signed Child's Name