29 January 2018

**Ski Course, France, Friday 15 February – Friday 22 February 2019**

Dear Parent/Carer

Due to the success of previous visits to Austria, we have decided to stay with our trusted company Absolute SkiWise, but visit a different resort that is still well known to the school, situated in the French Alps, called Villard De Lans. This is a traditional resort that offers 130km of downhill skiing, providing more than enough variety for even the most advanced of our skiers. We will stay in the Hotel Les Girards located 4km from the ski centre. All rooms are equipped with en-suite facilities and there is a jacuzzi/sauna and a games room for use in the evenings. This is always a popular trip due to the cultural and sporting benefits.

The cost of the course to France is £899 which is payable in instalments. This is based on a minimum of 40 learners, departing on Friday 15 February 2019 and returning Friday 22 February 2019. The price includes coach travel, ferry crossings, full board accommodation, five hours of ski coaching each day, lift pass, equipment hire (**boots**, **skis** and **helmet**), as well as the evening entertainment (the 3 activities will be confirmed at a later date). To assist in the cost due to the devaluing of the Pound, we are publicising the trip earlier than usual and cutting the trip from 6 days to 5 days. The full amount must be paid by **Friday 23 November 2018**. Delay in payment can result in additional fees from our agent. Please be aware, if we do not receive 40 full paying learners a supplement will also be required to be paid. You will be informed of any changes to the proposed trip if any arise.

Please note, comprehensive specialist winter sports travel insurance is included in your package. Full details of the policy are available on Absolute SkiWise’s website at [www.stischooltravel.co.uk](http://www.stischooltravel.co.uk). However, gadgets such as i-phones and i-pads are not covered under the standard terms of the policy that is included in your tour package. Should you wish to upgrade your policy to include cover for gadgets, or indeed to reduce the normal excess from the policy wording down to zero so that no excess is paid on making a valid claim (see policy wording, as conditions will apply) then you may do so on request by paying the following additional premiums as stated:

£7 per person additional premium to remove the excess limits from the standard policy wording.

£8 per person upgrade the policy to include coverage for gadgets (tablets, i-pads, i-phones etc.) up to £500 (see policy wording, as conditions will apply).

Alternatively, you can seek your own insurance for the gadgets.

An **optional** extra, is the opportunity to purchase an embroidered hooded top that will be worn on the trip and kept as a lasting memory. This will have the Birchwood High School badge on the front, your child’s name/nickname underneath and a ski logo on the back. This will cost approximately £35. Details of this will be sent out later in the year.

Any clothing (gloves, jackets, salopettes) or ski lessons prior to the trip (if required) will need to be paid for separately, so please account for this added expenditure when costing the trip. Also, having ski lessons has proved invaluable, as beginners have been able to experience more skiing throughout the week and progress more quickly. As usual, the school plans to use the Chill Factor-e facility in Manchester for lessons/practice, where we receive a discounted school rate for lessons. There are other slopes at Runcorn and Rossendale that you can use, so feel free to check these out. Please look out for deals at the Chill Factor-e too.

If you wish your child to participate in the 2019 ski trip, please return the slip below with a deposit of £100 (**non-returnable**) by **Friday 2 March** 2018. A second payment of £150 (**non-returnable**) is required by **Friday 27 April** 2018.

Payments should be made using **Parentpay**, the school’s online payment website. If you have not activated your Parentpay account please email finance@birchwoodhigh.org to request an activation letter. You can also use this email address to request a **PayPoint** letter. This will allow you to pay by cash at any of the PayPoint locations in the local area. Please note you cannot pay by cash or cheque at the school office.

Learners must maintain a high standard of attendance and behaviour and a positive attitude to learning in their lessons. School reserves the right to withdraw your child’s place where they display poor or unsafe behaviour in school. If this is the case, any money already paid for the trip will not be refunded.

As with all the school’s ski trips a meeting will be held in October 2018. Here, all the information regarding the resort, clothing required, ski lessons and travel plans will be passed on to you. Prior to departure, you will also receive a comprehensive booklet detailing all relevant aspects of the trip. Should you require information prior to this meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Ray Cowdell (Ski Party Leader)

Teacher of PE

FAO: Mr Cowdell

**Ski Course, France, Friday 15 February – Friday 22 February 2019**

**Please return to the School Office by Friday 2 March 2018**

Name of Learner: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Form \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I wish my child to attend the Ski training Course to France, February 2019.

I enclose a £100 deposit, paid through Payment Pay, cash or cheque (**non returnable**).

**I understand the remaining £150 (non-returnable) of the deposit needs to be paid by Friday 27 April, 2018.**

Ski Ability (please circle):

Never been skiing One week skiing More than one week’s skiing Other

(If Other, please state) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I do / do not require the £7 per person additional premium to remove the excess limits from the standard policy wording. My full balance will £906.

I do / do not require the £8 per person policy upgrade to include coverage for gadgets (tablets, i-pads, i-phones etc.) up to £500. My full balance will be £907 or £914 with both additions)

Name of Parent/Carer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Carer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_