



July 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Sponsored 10K Walk (Years 7-12) – Friday 12th July 2019

The purpose of this letter is to give you all the information you will need about our planned sponsored walk on Friday 12th July. It is a fun and enjoyable day which has run successfully for many years and also enables students to feel that they are making a positive contribution to the school.

Purpose

This year we hope to raise funds to help with the purchase of a new school minibus and equipment to support the students' learning, following the last PTA fund raise where new chairs and tables were purchased for each classroom. We know from student feedback that this is something that will be much valued by them. The fundraising target for the walk is £8,000, so it is important that every student plays their part.

Safety

This is of course our prime concern. The route chosen has been selected because it avoids any busy roads. There are no road crossings and only footpaths and minor roads will be used. Marshals will be placed at strategic points. Students will walk in their form groups by year. This will avoid large groups and congestion. At least eight members of staff will accompany each year group. We have arranged first aid points and some of the staff walkers will carry first aid kits. **Students must bring their own water bottle to take with them on the walk.** These can be refilled in school, as required. Extra water supplies will be provided on route. The school mini buses will be available to pick up lame or over weary students.

The Route

We have chosen a route that takes us twice around Rothamsted Estate. This is for a number of reasons including that if the weather is poor then the walk can be curtailed and stragglers can be decanted back to school after one circuit.

Timings

The school day begins with registration as normal and we will check for suitable walking shoes and clothes. Students will remain in their form rooms until called to a holding area. They will be reregistered then set off in form/year groups at 15 minute intervals. The walk will be over by 12.30pm in time for a normal lunch in the school canteen. The afternoon will be lessons as normal.

Buses

Buses will run as normal.



Clothing

We do not want students to wear school uniform. They should wear sensible walking shoes or trainers. Indeed, trainers are probably best for the terrain we are going over. They should arrive dressed appropriately for the day's weather conditions, and if it is sunny a hat and sunscreen would be appropriate. We know from past experience that students who do not wear socks get blisters! From past experience we know that almost all students arrive in appropriate casual clothing for this type of event. On a few occasions students have been told that they are not wearing appropriate clothing for the walk, and this has usually involved the wearing of revealing cut off shorts and tops or sandal style of footwear more suitable for the beach than a 10k walk. Although this is rare, we would like students to dress appropriately.

Food

We will be returning to school in time for lunch at 1pm as normal.

Difficulties

Weather: We will not walk if it is pouring down with rain. If this happens we will keep the students in school and revert to normal timetable. If it is a little damp, we will walk, so please bring an appropriate waterproof coat!

If for any reason your child is unable to participate in the walk on medical or other grounds, please let us know as soon as possible. We would like to think that everybody can do something and so will negotiate an appropriate length of walk or an alternative helping role.

Collecting the Sponsorship Money

Each student will soon be issued with a sponsorship form. Replacement forms are available on the website. Forms and money can be handed into Form Tutors from Monday 8th July. Sponsorship money can also be handed in at the PTA table in the gym where students register before leaving for the walk on the 12th July.

The PTA will be collecting sponsorship money on Monday – Wednesday lunch time outside the school canteen during the week following the walk, which is the last week of term. This collection is kindly being organised by PTA representatives. Please make cheques payable to Roundwood Park PTA.

Gift Aid

As a charity, we can reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 donated under Gift Aid. If donations are eligible for Gift Aid, it is important that all the relevant information is provided on the sponsorship forms which will be given to students during registration time by their Form Tutor.

Final Plea

Please help your child to get sponsors and bring the money raised into school, ideally by 17th July latest.

I hope that this has all helped to explain what is going on and I look forward to the day being a real example of the school working as a team.

Yours sincerely



Alan Henshall
Headteacher