

Durham Blue Coat C. E. Aided Junior School

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18th May 2026

Year 5 Residential Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share an important update regarding the planned Year 6 residential trip for next academic year. After thorough consideration, we have made the difficult decision that we cannot run the week long residential next year.

Our school has a long-standing tradition of offering this week-long trip, making this decision incredibly hard. However, recent staffing changes and unexpected changes in the personal circumstances of our team members mean we cannot safely meet the strict staffing ratios required for a full week away from home. Staffing a week-long residential requires a significant 24-hour commitment from our teachers, and we currently do not have the capacity to guarantee this safely.

We know this news will be disappointing for both you and your children. To ensure our Year 5 students still enjoy a memorable experience, we are actively planning a special weekend event – Big School Camp – where our students will camp out for the weekend within the school grounds. This weekend will offer the same high-quality outdoor learning and friendship-bonding opportunities, without the week-long element.

We will share the full details and dates of these alternative activities with you in a separate letter.

Thank you for your understanding, support, and continued partnership.

Yours sincerely,

L Grieve

Mrs L Grieve
Headteacher

