



November 9th 2011

Dear Parents

Y 4 and 5 visit to the Natural History and Pitt Rivers Museums in Oxford

As part of our current work we are taking the Year 4 and 5 children on a trip to the Natural History and Pitt Rivers Museums in Oxford.

The Year 5 children will be taking part in a 'Valiant Victorians' workshop at the Natural History Museum. The Museum itself is one of the most important Victorian buildings in Oxford. The children will discover the famous Victorians that were linked to the Museum, and find out how they helped to change the way we see the world. They will also handle specimens that they examined and find out more about the lives and work of Lewis Carroll, Charles Darwin, William Buckland, Mary Anning and Prince Albert amongst others. After lunch the children will take part in a hands-on 'What is it?' workshop in the Pitt Rivers Museum allowing pupils to handle and learn from Museum artefacts. Through the handling and research of mystery objects, this fun session will encourage questioning and develop their analytical skills.

Children in Year 4 will begin their day with a 'History Detectives' workshop in the Pitt Rivers museum. They will discover what objects can reveal about people and their environment by handling artefacts and exploring the Museum. Children will develop their skills of historical enquiry as they find out about a mystery person from a range of sources. Following lunch, they will move into the Natural History Museum for a workshop on skeletons, linked to their science topic. After looking at a range of animal skeletons, children will participate in a problem solving activity to identify a selection of skeletons. They will then consider the shapes and functions of different bones and have the opportunity to reconstruct a full-sized model of a human skeleton. Children will also investigate the differences between herbivore and carnivore skulls.

We will leave school at 8:45 on **Wednesday 7th December** and return to school in time for normal pick up. Children should be in full uniform and will need a packed lunch, preferably fully disposable, no fizzy drinks and in line with our healthy eating policy. There will be an opportunity to visit the shop; we suggest £5.00 as a maximum, in a clearly named purse.

The cost of the trip is £14 and will appear on next term's fees. Please return the consent form to school, noting any change to your contact details if necessary.

If you have any questions about the trip please don't hesitate to contact your child's form tutor.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Bristow and Mrs McDonnell

I/we give permission for..... (child's name & form) to attend the trip to the Natural History and Pitt Rivers Museums in Oxford and agree to £14 being added to the school account.

Signed..... Date:.....