Thomas A Becket Junior School

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9th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 4 Heartwood Festival 2027

We are delighted to share the first details of one of the highlights of Year 4 – our **Heartwood Festival** and the opportunity for children to become **Heartwood Voyagers** on our two-night residential adventure to **Lodge Hill in Pulborough**.

For many children, the Year 4 residential is one of those school experiences they remember for years to come. It is a chance to spend two nights away with their friends, try new things, enjoy the outdoors and discover just how much they are capable of.

Our Heartwood Voyagers will travel to Lodge Hill where two days and nights of adventure await them. From low ropes, den building and orienteering to campfire cooking, creative activities and our legendary **dragon hunt**, the children will be busy from the moment they arrive.

There are also all those moments that don't appear on an activity timetable: sharing a room with friends, eating meals together, laughing around the campfire, waking up somewhere different and returning home with stories to tell.

At the heart of the experience are friendship, confidence and independence. Children have opportunities to challenge themselves, support one another and experience being away from home in a safe and supportive environment with familiar adults from school.

Heartwood Voyagers – Lodge Hill

The residential will once again take place as a split week, with half of the Year 4 cohort attending Lodge Hill from **Monday 24th May until Wednesday 26th May** and the second half attending from **Wednesday 26th May until Friday 28th May**. We confirm that 160 places (80 places per group) have been booked for the trip.

Monday 24th May until Wednesday 26th May - 4EW, 4BB and 4CR

Wednesday 26th May until Friday 28th May - 4LH, 4LG and 4TB

During their stay, the children will take part in a packed programme of outdoor, creative and team activities. Last year's programme included:

- low ropes
- den building
- orienteering
- campfire cooking
- T-shirt printing
- wand making
- clay pots and candles
- the Heartwood dragon hunt
- games and free time with friends.

There really isn't a dull moment!

We also know that for some children, the thought of staying away from home can initially feel daunting. Part of the Heartwood journey is helping children feel ready for that adventure. Our staff know the children extremely well and we spend time preparing them, answering their questions and building their confidence in the months leading up to the residential.

For many children, overcoming those initial nerves becomes one of the most valuable parts of the experience.

Your Lodge Hill Journey – At a Glance

Arrival at school
Children should arrive at school at **10:45am** on the day their residential begins, dressed in their own clothes and ready for their adventure. They will meet in the school hall with their luggage.

We ask parents and carers to say goodbye at the school entrance as there simply isn't enough room in the hall for all the children, luggage and grown-ups! Members of staff will be available at the entrance to collect any medication.

Off we go!
Our coaches will leave school at approximately **11:30am** and we expect to arrive at Lodge Hill at around **12:15pm**. We will let families know once everyone has arrived safely.

Coming home
We will leave Lodge Hill at approximately **1:00pm** on Wednesday or Friday and expect to arrive back at school at around **1:45pm**.

Children may be collected at this point or can remain at school until the usual end of the school day at **3:00pm**. We will provide details nearer the time about letting us know your collection arrangements.

What Will My Child Need?

One of the reassuring things about Lodge Hill is that children need **little or no new clothing**. Heartwood is about getting involved, being outdoors and having fun – definitely not keeping clothes pristine!

A full kit list is attached to this letter, but children will need practical clothing suitable for outdoor activities and the wonderfully unpredictable British weather.

Meals and Accommodation

The children will stay in single-sex rooms of various sizes with access to communal single-sex bathrooms. Nearer the time, children will complete friendship choices which we will use when organising rooms.

Children receive three meals a day at Lodge Hill, with hot and cold choices and options to meet a wide range of dietary requirements. Refreshments are also provided during the day.

Children will need to bring a **packed lunch in a disposable bag on their day of departure**. Drinks should not be in glass bottles and all food must be nut-free.

Health and Safety

The Lodge Hill site has very high standards of safety and the site is self-contained. The children are with their group leader all day, and site staff are on duty throughout the night.

Medication

Nearer the time we will send you a medical consent form which will need to be returned to us. Please ensure you complete details of any health or medical conditions and medication required including any travel sickness medicine. All medication will be kept and administered by staff.

If you have any queries about this, or would like to discuss anything in confidence, then please make an appointment to come and see me.

If your child has specific medical needs, please note these on the medical consent form so that we might discuss any necessary amendments to the programme well in advance.
All medicines must be provided in their original packaging as prescribed by the doctor.

Code of Conduct

A code of conduct is attached. Please can you read this together with your child.

Expectations of behaviour are the same as those maintained in school and whilst we are confident that the children will meet the high standards of behaviour we always expect; we would like to make it clear that any behaviour that compromises the enjoyment or safety of others will be dealt with very seriously.

Heartwood Festival

Our residential sits within our wider **Heartwood Festival**, a special part of Year 4 designed around adventure, friendship, creativity and making memories together.

We recognise that, for a variety of reasons, not every child will attend Lodge Hill. Those children will become our **Heartwood Explorers** and will take part in a specially planned programme of activities at school while the Voyagers are away.

Last year's Explorers enjoyed team challenges, a treasure hunt, T-shirt decorating, den building, tree climbing, Forest School activities and outdoor games.

This means that every child remains part of Heartwood while our residential continues to be the centrepiece of the week for our Heartwood Voyagers.

Parents' Information Evening

We would like to invite **parents and carers** to our **Heartwood Voyagers Residential Information Evening at 6pm Wednesday 14th October in the main hall.** Please come to the front entrance for this.

This will be an opportunity to find out much more about Lodge Hill and why we value the residential experience so highly. We will show you what the children can expect, talk through the activities and accommodation and explain how we support children with everything from friendship groups and sleeping away from home to meals, medical needs and those inevitable pre-residential butterflies.

We will also explain the costs, payment arrangements and practical organisation of the trip and there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

We hope the evening will give you a real flavour of the experience and help you and your child decide whether they would like to become a **Heartwood Voyager in 2027**.

Cost and Payment Information

The total cost of the residential will be **£191 per pupil**.

Of this, £135.00 is for board and lodging which is chargeable to parents. For the remaining £56.00 we request a voluntary contribution which covers transport, all activities and staffing costs. The trip is priced at cost; the school does not make a profit, nor do we overprice to cover the risk of shortfall in voluntary contributions.

Parents are not obliged to make a voluntary contribution but it is probable that if insufficient monies are received, the trip will have to be cancelled.

For pupils currently **eligible for Targeted free school meals (FSM),** the cost of the trip is **£56.00 per pupil** as the school is required to waive the costs of board and lodging.

Deposits

To secure a place on the trip **a deposit of £50.00 (or £15.00 if your child is eligible for Targeted free school meals)** is required by **Monday 30th November 2026**. After this date you will receive confirmation of your child's place. To pay the deposit please login to your account on Parentmail (https://pmx.parentmail.co.uk) or use the Parentmail App, select 'Accounts and Products', 'Lodge Hill 2027 Deposit' and follow the 'payment/shop' process.

For Targeted free school meal children, please click on 'Pay a custom amount' in the payment item, and amend the payment amount to £15.00. Please note that children who are entitled to Expanded free school meals are unfortunately not entitled to the reduced rate. If you are unsure if your child is entitled to targeted or expanded free school meals, please contact your child's class teacher or the school office who will be able to confirm.

Cancellation and Refund

Once monies have been paid and numbers confirmed with the travel company no refunds or deposits can be repaid unless in insurable circumstances. We will hold a waiting list and endeavour to sell your place to another child, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Our charging policy can be found on the school website Thomas A Becket Junior School - Policies

If you think you might be eligible for Targeted free school meals please click on this link: Free School Meals | Thomas A Becket Junior School

Payment dates	**Full Payment Schedule**	**Targeted FSM Payment Schedule**
30th November 2026	£50 deposit	£15.00 deposit
30th December 2026	£29.00	£9.00
30th January 2027	£28.00	£9.00
28th February 2027	£28.00	£9.00
31st March 2027	£28.00	£9.00
30th April 2027	£28.00	£5.00
Total	**£191.00**	**£56**

We are incredibly excited to begin this year's Heartwood journey. Lodge Hill offers our children something very different from an ordinary school day: time away with friends, adventure, challenge and the chance to become a little more independent along the way.

We hope many of our Year 4 children will choose to join us and become **Heartwood Voyagers 2027**.

Warmest wishes,

Toria Bono and Karen Wise
Year 4 Leader and Deputy Headteacher

Lodge Hill Kit List

Please bring appropriate clothing for the English spring/summer weather!

EXPLORE
LEARN
FRIENDSHIPS
MEMORIES

Clothing

- [ ] Named plain white t-shirt
- [ ] 2 pairs of jeans/trousers/ tracksuit bottoms and/or shorts
- [ ] 1 sweatshirt/jumper
- [ ] 2 t-shirts
- [ ] 1 long-sleeved t-shirt
- [ ] Pyjamas
- [ ] Clean socks & underwear for 3 days!
- [ ] Waterproof trousers (optional)
- [ ] Waterproof coat/jacket
- [ ] Trainers
- [ ] Sun hat/cap
- [ ] Sunglasses

Personal items

- [ ] Towel
- [ ] Wash bag (soap, flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste)
- [ ] Water bottle

Bedding

- [ ] Your own (named) sleeping bag
- [ ] Pillowcase
- [ ] Bottom sheet

Other items

- [ ] Spare pair of trainers
- [ ] Hair ties for long hair
- [ ] Strong waterproof bag for re-packing dirty clothing
- [ ] Named plastic drinks bottle
- [ ] Sun cream
- [ ] Pack of playing cards or small travel board/card game (optional)

Don't forget!

- ✓ Packed lunch for the first day
- ✓ Medication (hand in to a member of staff on the first morning)
- ✓ Inhalers and Epi-pens Teddy Bear (compulsory)

- ✓ No electronic devices
- ✓ No snacks or sweets please!

Code of Conduct

Please read through this information with your child, ensuring that the code of conduct is clear. We will also discuss the code in school.

- No mobile phones or electronic equipment will be permitted.
- You will obey instructions given by the staff without delay at all times. They have your safety as their first priority.
- You will be punctual for all activities and meals. We all want to make the most of our time and do not want to be wasting any of it!
- If you are walking around the centre, you will always make sure that you are with a member of staff.
- During your free time, you must follow the instructions of teachers, group leaders and centre staff.
- Your room is to be kept clean and tidy - there will be room checks daily!
- There may be other members of the public around. Always be polite and helpful.
- Respect all property and equipment.
- While on the coaches, you will behave in a sensible way and listen to the driver’s rules.
- Think of others and how your words and actions affect them. We work together as a team.
- Have a great time!