

2nd March 2018



To: Ski Trip Candidates

Dear Parents,

***HOLLYGIRT SCHOOL SKI TRIP 2018 – GRANDVALIRA, ANDORRA and BARCELONA, SPAIN
SUNDAY 1ST APRIL 2018 – SUNDAY 8TH APRIL 2018***

I am writing to give final details about the travel itinerary ahead of next month's ski trip and to request payment for the après-ski package.

As I explained when we met in January, it is my intention that we shall meet in the landside Departures area of East Midlands Airport on Sunday 1st April. Staff will be present from 6:30am and I would ask that you arrive no later than 7:30am to allow a full two hours prior to departure as contingency time. We are scheduled to return at 7:25pm on Sunday 8th of April, and will meet you in Arrivals.

The activity programme in Andorra will consist of an evening bowling, an evening ice skating and a visit to Calgea Spa. In addition to this, we shall visit the tax-free shopping mall. In Barcelona, the activity programme will consist of a guided walking city tour and a tour of the Nou Camp stadium (home of Barcelona FC). The cost of the activity programmes is £70 per person. Please could you ensure that this is paid to the School no later than **Wednesday 14th March**.

If your child does not yet have a European Health Insurance Card, please tend to this as a matter of urgency. It is free and can be applied for online. All trip participants are insured, but this adds an additional level of cover when in Spain.

I will be writing in the near future to ask for passports to be handed to school prior to the trip. Please take the time to ensure that your child's passport is in date for the duration of the trip. (Neither Spain nor Andorra require additional validity beyond the date of return to the UK, though it is always a good idea to have some extension as a contingency plan.)

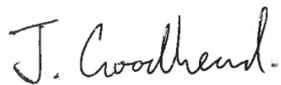
For those pupils who have never skied before, or have not skied for a long time, I would wholeheartedly encourage them to have a few lessons before departing, to enable them to develop some basic skills and make the most of their time in the mountains. It also helps in terms of getting used to the equipment. Personally, I would strongly recommend Swadlincote Ski Centre (DE11 8LP). They offer individual and group lessons for all abilities at a reasonable price, including a one day course. Tamworth Snowdome (B79 7ND) also offers similar lesson packages and a one day course. Tamworth offers a real snow experience, whilst Swadlincote is an outdoor dry slope; as you might expect, Tamworth is therefore more expensive. From my experience, I would recommend Swadlincote over Tamworth for beginners: whilst the skiing surface is far superior (and easier!) at the Snowdome, Swadlincote has its own entirely separate nursery slope and also button lifts, so it is a good chance for children to learn how these work, as there may be some in resort. It is also a pleasant surprise when applying the hard-learned skills on real snow and finding it so much easier!

In terms of what to pack, I shall write with a comprehensive list, though most of this will be from regular wardrobes (such as jeans, trainers, etc.). In the meantime, here is the kit required for the skiing aspect of the trip, with a reminder that several layers are far preferable to thick clothing, as it allows the flexibility to add or reduce clothing according to the (unpredictable) mountain climate:

Ski socks (at least 3 pairs, ideally 5)
Ski trousers or salopettes (1 pair)
Thermal leggings (1 pair – unlikely to be needed, but best to have the option)
T-shirts (several – ideally including some long-sleeved)
Thermal tops (2 – though they may be unused)
Ski jacket
Ski gloves (1 pair)
Shades (must have good UV protection)
Goggles
Sun cream (with a high SPF)
Lip cream (also with a high SPF)

I shall be liaising with the pupils regarding rooming and so on in the next week or so and to run over some procedural things in more detail with them. I shall also be writing to you with some final consent forms, dietary forms and so on. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Goodhead". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Mr J. Goodhead
Ski Trip Leader