



Stanhope Primary and Nursery School

Head Teacher: A Marriott

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Dear Mr Last

I am writing to once again thank your team for making our Year 4 visit to Thornbridge Outdoors an outstanding and memorable occasion. We have been bringing KS2 children to the centre since June 2002 and have always returned back to school totally reassured that quality outdoor education is a must for all children.

As a school we attach great importance to enabling all KS2 children to experience new environments through residential visits. We have a programme that builds year on year on extending the opportunities young people experience. We build from Y3 children visiting Lindors Hotel in Herefordshire, Years 4 and 5 at either Thornbridge or St Michaels centre in Hathersage and Year 6 visiting Normandy in France.

We have over the years used a variety of providers and residential sites but always value the opportunity to keep Thornbridge in our diary. Thornbridge offers a unique experience that I feel other centres miss. This comes in the form of:

1. An excellent safe and constantly changing outdoor environment with fantastic opportunities for personal and social improvement for all KS2 age range
2. Providing high quality instruction where time is given to build relationships with instructors over the length of the visit.
3. An expanding range of quality on and off site activities that are tailor made to suit the needs of particular groups and can be altered and adapted where necessary during the visit.
4. Appropriate time spent not just rushing from activity to activity, but time spent discussing and improving children's attitudes, approaches and progress through the activity.
5. Opportunities for school staff to feel totally part of the experience by leading areas of the visit having been given appropriate training (low ropes, night line, camp fires, local walks environmental art/studies, team building and problem solving activities).

Through the quality planning and preparation every visit feels unique and special for each school and not a treadmill of experiences the children and staff are put through. A good example this year centred around an offsite weaselling session where children were exposed to a new hazardous terrain overlooking the Burbage Valley. Not only did the pupils manage to develop early skills for future climbing or caving activities but also an appreciation of the landscape. Time was spent talking about geology, history and local ecology in a very meaningful and thoughtful way.

Thornbridge offers the young people at Stanhope all that is good about outdoor education and provides them with new skills to help them make appropriate choices through their lives. I sincerely hope that this quality centre continues to follow it's own brand of outdoor education and continues to offer and provide programmes that fit young peoples and individual school's needs, not neatly packaged lists of timed experiences that a child or group have done to them.

Yours sincerely

Mr A.Marriott

Head Teacher

