

**Headteacher**

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25<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Elm Class - Connect with the Countryside Day**

I am writing further to my letter, giving details of the proposed trip to take our year 5 children to the South of England Showground at Ardingly, for a **'Connect with the Countryside Day'**. We have not had enough parent volunteers, to help with transport, to run this as a free trip.

As you are aware, from the extensive coverage in the national press under the 'Worthless' campaign, West Sussex is one of the lowest funded counties for schools in the country, which is why on many occasions we have come to rely on the goodwill of our parents to assist with transport to keep costs to a minimum.

There have been occasions when we have been able to hire minibuses locally from Midhurst Rother College, Midhurst Primary School and Easebourne Primary School. For the date of the proposed Ardingly, South of England Show Ground trip, all of these are fully booked or committed to their own schools which is why, on this occasion, we have asked for help from parents.

Additionally, before we have asked for your help for this trip, we have contacted several coach companies who have quoted prices but we felt that £16 per child, just to cover the coach, was too much to expect from you. We have been looking extensively at all our options for this trip as I feel that the children having the opportunity to meet farm animals, learn about the training that takes place on a farm, as well as taking part in traditional Sussex crafts is a wonderful opportunity which will give them a greater understanding of our local area.

We have finally managed to source two minibuses from a Hampshire company, who have agreed a special rate for our school. Unfortunately, the costs for these have to be passed onto parents to ensure this trip can still take place.

The current consent forms sent out with my previous letter will still be valid however I would be grateful if you could please complete and return the reply slip at the bottom of this letter, with your remittance of £8.00 to the office **by Monday 30th April** to enable us to secure the booking for the minibuses.

Thank you for your continued support,

Yours sincerely

Laura Sandon-Webb  
Deputy Head/Elm Class Teacher

**South of England Showground 'Connect with the Countryside Day' on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July.**

Name of Child.....

I enclose £8 to cover the costs of transport to the South of England Showground.

Signed.....Date.....