



Ryecroft C.E. (C) Middle School

Ashbourne Road, Rocester, Staffordshire, ST14 5NW

Telephone: 01889 590394 Fax: 01889 591483

Headteacher: Miss R. Baramuszcak

12th February 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Next Half-Term pupils in Year 6 will be reading and studying the classic Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's novel, 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'. Part of their study focus will be incorporating local legends with the legend of the Baskervilles.

To support this focus and aid pupil learning, we have arranged for Year 6 pupils to visit the 'Chained Oak' in Alton. The 'Chained Oak' is an old oak tree with heavy chains that is the subject of a popular local legend. Allegedly a disgruntled beggar woman put a curse upon the 15th Earl of Shrewsbury. She was loitering near the lodge gate to his home, Alton Abbey, and as the Earl passed by he shunned her pleas for money. Her revenge was to curse him: for every branch of the oak tree that falls, a member of his family would die. The story has it that the Earl chained the branches of the tree to prevent tragedy befalling the Talbot family.

Alton Towers Theme Park is using this local legend to spook guests at the attraction called 'Hex'. We are therefore delighted to inform you that Alton Towers have offered all pupils free access to the 'Hex' and other rides in the park. In return they have requested that the pupils go on a new ride opening this season, 'The Wicker Man'. Please be advised that pictures and comments from the pupils about this new ride may be used by the Merlin Group for their promotional adverts for the new attraction.

This exciting field trip has been arranged for **Monday 19th March 2018** and we ask for a **£3.00** contribution towards transportation costs. Should we receive insufficient contributions then, unfortunately, the trip may have to be cancelled. Although this visit is open to all Year 6, the school reserves the right to refuse participation to any pupil whose behaviour is judged unacceptable.

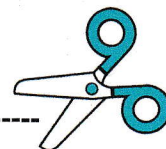
Pupils are not required to wear school uniform but as we will be outside for this visit, your child will need suitable outdoor clothing and footwear appropriate for the weather conditions and terrain, such as a waterproof coat and walking boots/wellingtons/trainers. Pupils will also require a packed lunch (no glass bottles please).

For your child to take part in this visit, please complete, sign and return the slip below to the school office together with the **£3.00** by **Monday 5th March 2018**. Please make cheques payable to Ryecroft Middle School.

Yours sincerely

Miss K. Sargeant
Head of English

Mrs L. Doyle
Classroom Teacher



Ryecroft C.E. (C) Middle School

Year 6 'Chained Oak' visit – Monday 19th March 2018

I would like my child to take part in the above visit and enclose a contribution of **£3.00** (cheques made payable to Ryecroft Middle School).

Signed
(Person with parental responsibility)

Date

Email: headteacher@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk

office@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk

Website: www.ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk

