



Cumbria Primary Ski Course 2021

March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As you may know, schools in Cumbria have participated in ski courses for primary age children for many years and this year's course to Les Menuires in The Three Valleys, France was again extremely successful. This year, a total of 120 children from 25 different schools across Cumbria attended. Thank you to all those parents and children who sent letters and emails of appreciation, it makes all our efforts worthwhile.

The trip will be organized by a team of head teachers, led this year again by Phil Cooper, Head Teacher at Brough Community Primary School. It is open to all current year four and five children, entering year five and six next year, in Cumbrian state schools and academies.

We are all passionate about skiing and have significant experience in organizing and leading residential trips for children. For 2021 we will visit Les Menuires for the tenth time with SkiBound. Les Menuires is situated in the beautiful Belleville Valley providing an excellent variety of local pistes. The village is at a height of 1815m with an excellent snow record. For beginners, large nursery slopes can be found in most of the areas making up Les Menuires, while the upper slopes provide an array of interconnecting red, blue and green runs. With their instructor, the more advanced skiers have the opportunity to explore a large part of the Three Valleys area, even skiing black runs! On this year's trip we again used Facebook to provide parents with detailed updates on both the outward and return journeys as well as uploading photographs and videos on a regular basis. Do have a look at some of the comments from parents on Cumbria Primary Schools Ski Course Facebook page.

The accommodation is in the 3*** Clubhotel, Skilt. You really couldn't expect a better location. In the heart of the resort, the Skilt overlooks its own large sun terrace, with the ski school meeting point a few steps from the entrance. It is an ideal hotel, providing a very high standard of secure accommodation. The bedrooms are of a good size, all are en-suite and generally sleep two to six people. **For Health & Safety reasons and to ensure we are all in the same hotel, numbers are limited to 120. If we have more children than we can accommodate, a waiting list will be kept.**

**The dates are: Depart: Early morning on Saturday 16th January 2021
Return: Late afternoon Saturday 23rd January 2021**

For 2021 we are travelling by air from Manchester to Geneva.

The cost for the 2021 course will be £895 per child.

The price for the 2021 course includes the following:

- All transport from a central pick up, (two North Cumbria, one South Cumbria) to Manchester airport.
- Flight from Manchester to Geneva and return.
- Transfers from Geneva to the resort and return by high specification coach.
- Full board accommodation at the hotel, all rooms en-suite.
- 5 hours ski instruction per day for 6 days with the French Ski School (ESF).
- Hire of all ski equipment – skis, boots, helmets and poles.
- 6-day lift pass.
- Fully comprehensive insurance cover.
- Evening entertainment programme.
- Administration costs.

The system of payment for the course is:

- Initial deposit of **£150** to be paid by **Friday 20th March 2020**.
- Second deposit **£350** to be paid by **Monday 1st June 2020**.
- Final instalment of **£395** to be paid by **Monday 12th October 2020**.

All money paid is non-returnable unless a doctor's certificate is supplied.

The following items are **not** included in the price and should be budgeted for by parents:

- Pocket money (a maximum of around £30 worth of Euros).
- Breakfast on the outbound journey and lunch in England on return.
- Ride on Speed Mountain as an apres-ski activity (weather permitting). Last year this cost 7 Euros.
- Official trip clothing, such as hoodies.

All pupils will need their own valid passport and EHIC card for the visit.

The children taking part in the course will need to be properly clothed for winter sports, but it is often possible to hire or borrow clothing, rather than make expensive purchases. In the Autumn Term of this year, parents' meetings will be arranged across the county, when you will be able to get further details of the visit.

You need to be aware that in some cases your child may be the only one attending from their school and frequently there will not be a member of staff from your child's school. The trip is staffed by very experienced head teachers, teachers, teaching assistants and other staff, who are all good skiers. We allocate staff places based on skiing and residential experience, the number of children attending from a particular school and the number of new staff we can mentor each year.

Initial booking this year is all online and through the Eventbrite ticketing service (www.eventbrite.com). 120 places will be available on the site. The trip will go live at 7pm on Tuesday 17th March. Please search for Cumbria Primary Schools Ski Course or use the link below. Only one place can be reserved for each booking. Of course, if you have more than one child in your family you would like to register, then please make a subsequent booking. Can I urge you not to obtain a place for friend's children, using the same or a second email address or other alternative means. This would of course be unfair in principal. Please treat the system fairly. Any individuals found to be obtaining places for anyone other than their children will lose both their place on the trip and that of the person they were attempting to book for.

The link to the event is (but please be aware that this will not work until the event is live):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cumbria-primary-schools-ski-course-2021-tickets-96227652499>

If you wish your child to take part in the 2021 Ski Course please register to get a place on the event after the live date and time. Once you have gained a place you will be contacted by email and asked to fill in a form, then pay your initial deposit of £150 by bank transfer (the details will be on the form). This will all be done online. This year we will only be accepting bank transfers. Please DO NOT send cheques through the post.

If a deposit is not received within 72 hours of gaining a place, the reservation will be cancelled and the place will be made available on Eventbrite again. Last year, the trip filled up within 32 minutes of it going live, so please get onto the Eventbrite website early to secure your place. We will only accept money linked to emails given on Eventbrite bookings. Please do not pass on our bank details to people without places.

In the event of us filling the trip, 10 more places will be added to the Eventbrite system and these can be booked as reserve places. Updates will be advertised on the Cumbria Primary Schools' Ski Course Facebook page. Can I urge you to follow this page on Facebook.

A final note: the trip is organized by myself and other volunteers. We do this using our own time, outside of busy careers, because we love the opportunity this gives to the children of Cumbria. Whilst we try to be as prompt as we can with replies to emails, other things often do take priority. Also, the trip only runs smoothly when parents make payments and fill in forms promptly. Please only sign your child up to the trip if you are certain that you will be able to comply with these deadlines – we did have lots of issues with lateness in administration last year.

If you require further information or clarification of any of the trip details, please get in touch using the details below:

Best wishes,



Phil Cooper
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