

## Governor Visit Report

<b>Name: JOHN DREWERY</b>	<b>Date: 13-17<sup>th</sup> June 2016</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Focus of visit</b></p> Assisting on School Residential Trip to Manor Adventure Centre in Norfolk	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Classes/staff visited</b></p> Year 6 (42 Pupils) Mr Skinner, Mrs Waller, Mr Goodman, Mrs Witty & Ms Wilde.
<p><b>Summary of activities e.g. talking to staff and pupils, looking at resources, had lunch etc.</b></p> <p>The pupils participate in 5 activities each day. Which include a wide range of physical activities requiring varying degrees of skill and mental application; including a range of water based ones, climbing / obstacle courses, shooting, archery, fencing &amp; initiative. They also have to develop a sense of timing and preparation; team working is often essential to achieve success both in the activities and in preparation for them. Staff take part in or are present at the majority of the activities, which are all run by the centres trained personnel. Meals are eaten at a central dining room, staff mix well with the pupils, discussing what they have been doing and what is ahead. At this centre, which has only recently opened, the pupils are accommodated in a series of flats, which overlook an external play and seating area and accommodate up to 12 pupils in two bedrooms with a room for 2 staff. The facilities are undergoing upgrading and at present only have one pupil shower and wc per flat. For this reason the school had negotiated the use of 6 flats with 6 to 8 pupils and one adult in each, as previous experience on the trips to Wales with the same company has demonstrated that the tight activity programme does not allow sufficient time for more than a couple of showers between most activities. The head had purchased Walkie Talkies for the adults to keep in touch and for emergency calls. A residential activity at this time of year for the year 6 pupils has been a feature of the school programme for decades. It provides a chance for pupils to develop self reliance and interpersonal skills away from a school or home environment and assists in preparing them for the transition to secondary school and it is wonderful to see a marked development in all of them over such a short period.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>What have I learned as a result of my visit?</b></p> <p>This is a great opportunity for all the pupils to experience an introduction to range of activities, which give a chance for all to excel at something. Building self confidence and encouraging team effort. Many start the week expecting to fail at an activity or be too scared to take part but invariably, with encouragement from their friends and the staff, they do succeed. This to me is the greatest value.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Positive comments about the visit</b></p> <p>The pupils behaved very well and were as a result popular with the centre staff. The staff team were well organised and their participation in the activities makes a big impression on the pupils. In addition to the centre run activities staff organise evening sessions for discussion and diary records with a chance to relax and unwind to a short story reading and on the last evening performances from the pupils.</p> <p>Emergency planning proved highly effective, when on the last evening two accidents occurred requiring visits to casualty for two pupils with minor concussion and a broken finger.</p>
<p><b>Aspects I would like clarified/questions that I have:</b></p> <p>This new centre presented some challenges requiring resolution before a further visit. The main issue being communication. The centre did not yet have WiFi set up and the area has a terrible mobile phone reception issue. This could have an impact in an emergency. Particularly after 9.30pm when the main building with the landline phone links is locked up.</p>	

**Ideas for future visits:**

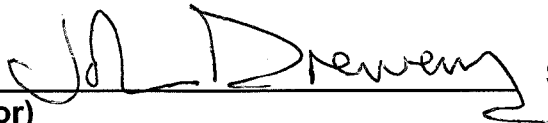
The school are considering running this trip in September for two reasons, reduced cost and as because the pupil's development over the week of activities will be of substantial benefit throughout the remainder of the school year. It will be interesting to monitor if the latter reason is demonstrably effective.

**Any other comments:**

Thank you to the school staff for inviting me to join with this week once again.

Thank you John, for your hard work, patience and energy, we all really appreciate it.

Signed  
(Governor)



Signed

