



March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

WAVE 1 - Duke of Edinburgh, Bronze Award Training Weekend: Mendip Hills, Friday 19 to Saturday 20 April 2024

I am delighted to confirm arrangements for the two-day training weekend.

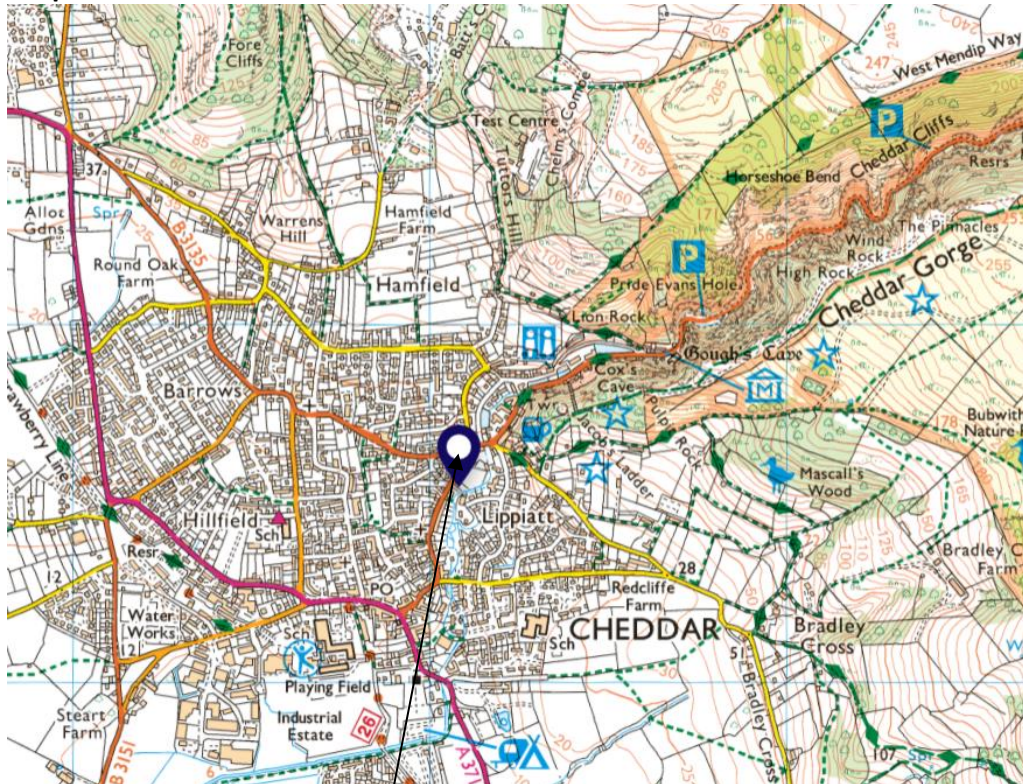
Dates and Transport

The training weekend will take place on the Mendip Hills and involves two days walking. Due to the number of students involved we are asking that parents drop off and pick up their child at designated locations and times. Please lift share if possible. We may be able to transport a very small number of students from school in the minibus if there is no other way they could be transported. Please get in touch.

Teams 1 – 5

Drop off at the large car park on Cliff St, Cheddar (BS27 3PS) and pick up at the Rock of Ages car park in Burrington Combe (BS40 7AS)

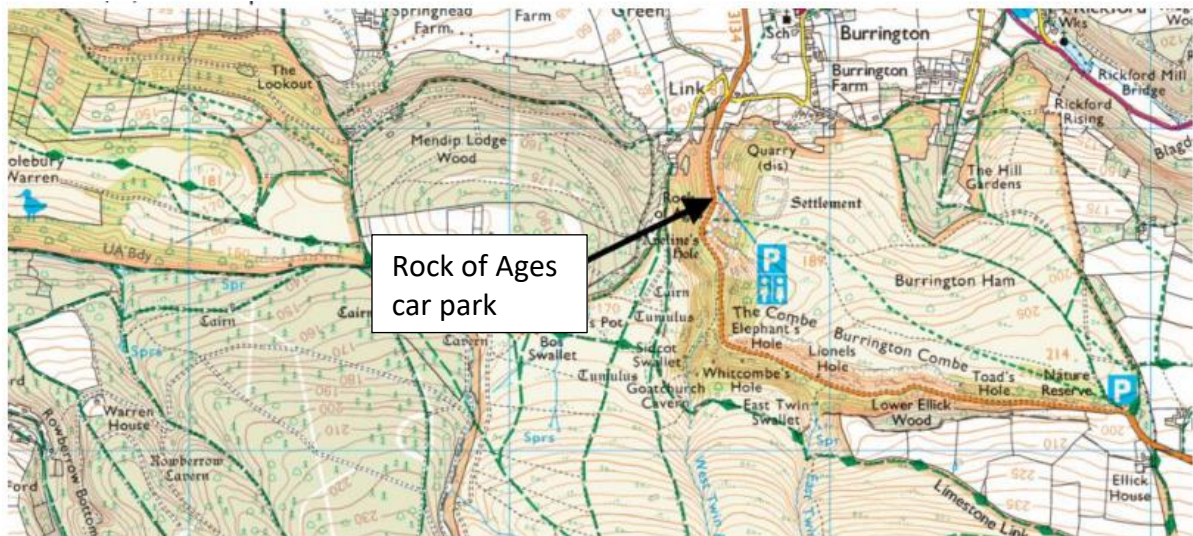
Drop off



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Car park

Pick up

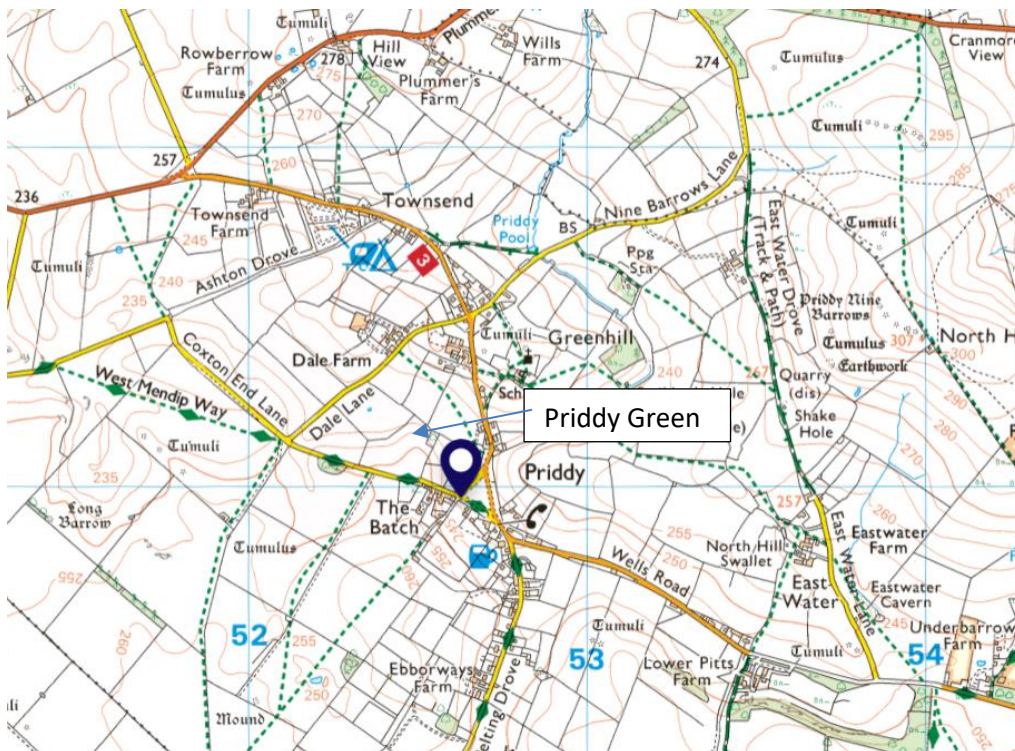


Team	Drop off time on Friday	Pick up time on Saturday
1 2 3	9.30 am	3.30 pm
4 5	10.00 am	4.00 pm

Teams 6 – 11

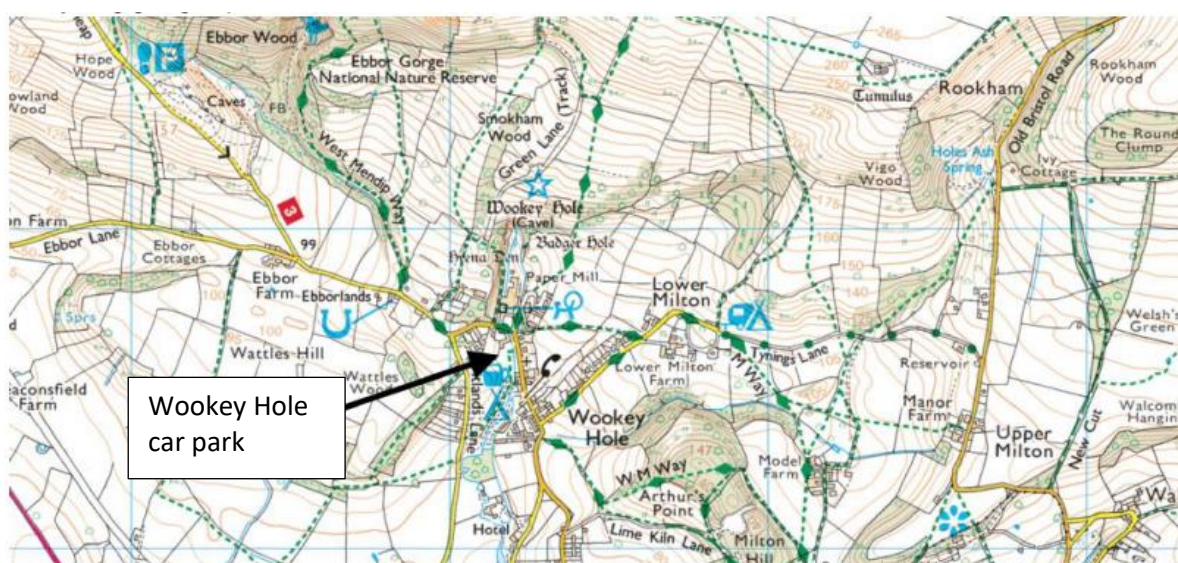
Drop off at Priddy Green, Priddy (BA5 3BB) and pick up from Wookey Hole car park (BA5 1BB).

Drop off



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Pick up



Team	Drop off time on Friday	Pick up time on Saturday
6 7 8	9.30 am	3.30 pm
9 10 11	10.00 am	4.00 pm

Your child should be aware of which group they are in but if they are unsure, the groups are attached.

Equipment and food

It is important that your child is suitably equipped for the expedition. Students will not be permitted to take part if they do not have boots that cover their ankles and waterproofs (this is for safety reasons). Cotton clothing is best avoided in favour of synthetic due to the latter being much quicker drying. Students should plan to walk in long walking trousers.

Group kit such as tents, maps, stoves and fuel will be provided by Wild Country Consultants. All other kit items must be personally provided including a compass (two per group), personal first aid kit and food for the weekend (2x lunches, 1x evening meal, 1x breakfast and snacks). They should also be carrying 2 litres of water. Please get in touch if you are struggling with any kit items. We may have the odd item to lend out.

The evening meal on Saturday evening should be cooked as a team. Students should have been proactive and communicated effectively with each other and decided who will be bringing what.

Mobile phones and contact details

Each team may bring TWO mobile phones between them which should be fully charged, switched off and stored safely in their packs for emergency use only. Additional mobile phones that are brought along will be stored in the minibus until the end of the expedition when they will be returned to students. Please note the school cannot take responsibility for any lost or damaged personal items whilst out on the expedition.

Staff will have phones and contact details provided by you. It is important that you are available during the duration of the weekend at any time in case there were a need for you to pick up your child.

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Please could you complete the link below to the Student Essential Information EV5 form to ensure that we have the most up to date medical information about your child, please include all relevant information including recent injuries etc.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=T_CfXMny-E--kLKiwUOtJ0KhwnN_XNMnkz4rHELunxUODZINENHRIFXREtZNkE5VktWRVVFRlo5NC4u

Supervision

Students will be trained by ML qualified instructors in a ratio of one instructor per team. They will be walking with the instructor on Friday being taught map, compass and camp craft skills. It is likely that during the Saturday the instructors may move to remote supervision to give the teams some independence. This means that the students will be walking unsupervised but will be met at agreed points along their route. Expectations have been clearly explained to students. Any student who is deemed to be behaving in an unsafe manner will be removed from the expedition.

Mrs Webb-Jones will be overseeing the Cheddar side of the expedition and I will be overseeing the Priddy side. We will have a school minibus on both sides in case of emergency. Additional Backwell staff will be camping overnight at both campsites.

Payments

Please ensure that you are up to date with the payments as per the schedule on ParentPay. Withdrawal from the expedition at this stage will still require payment in full.

We look forward to seeing you on **Friday 19 April 2024**. If you have any questions about these arrangements, please email me at the school via lgriffiths1@backwellschool.net

Yours sincerely

Lucinda Griffiths
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator