



St Mary's and St John's CE School

"With God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26)

Telephone: 020 8202 0026

Email: office@smsj.london

Website: www.smsj.london

Wisdom Service Hope

Principal: Martin Serrão BA, MEd (Camb)

30th March 2020

Dear Parent /Carer,

Following on from my communication to parents on 17th March, which included a brief update on our Easter Ski Trip, I am writing to confirm that we have taken the decision to roll the Ski trip forward to Easter 2021.

We have been working closely with the Ski Trip organisers who have been doing their best to facilitate the best possible outcome, in order to minimise the financial loss to parents and the school. Please see below an extract of their response:

Government directive has ultimately led to schools being in the position to either cancel or accept deferment of the arranged package in accordance with ABTA regulations as directed by the Travel Package Regulations which are set under European and UK Law.

ABTA confirmed on 17 March the following statement: "Government advice to schools and local authorities not to go on trips overseas does not give a right to a tour operator to offer a refund in full. The Government advice against travel relates to the capacity of the individual to travel, not to the deliverability of the arrangements, and therefore does not give rise to a right to refund" This is why the shutting of resorts does not affect your refund rights.

Therefore, if the terms and conditions were to be applied in their entirety the school would be subject to cancellation fees of 80% which would be approximately £833 per person.

Due to the way in which the government issued the directive and the fact that the Coronavirus/Covid-19 has been classed as a 'Pandemic', insurance companies have deemed this to fall within their '*force majeure*' clause (an event that happens outside of your control, including natural disasters, civil unrest, '*acts of God*' and any other unforeseeable event, including a pandemic) and are therefore not accepting claims for refunds.

Given the option of a loss per pupil of £833 or deferment to next year, we felt it appropriate to defer the trip to 2021. This means that money will not be returned from the organisers but will be held over.

The 2021 trip will be open to all students in year 7 to 11 and depending on the uptake, we anticipate that those who have paid for this year but may not be in a position to attend for whatever reason next year, will be able to have their money returned.

I would like to thank you all for your understanding and co-operation in these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Serrão
Principal