

St Peter's Church of England Primary School Aylesford

Arrangements and Proposed itinerary

Erasmus Visit

Monday May 16th – Friday May 20th

Group Composition

Belgian party is 8 children, 4 boys and 4 girls, with 1 female and 1 male member of staff.

Spanish party is 8 children, 6 girls and 2 boys, with 1 female and 1 male member of staff

Polish party is 6 children, 4 boys and 2 girls, with 2 female members of staff sharing a bedroom.

Romanian party is 6 children and 2 female members of staff sharing a bedroom.

Accommodation

Mocketts Farm

We have three cottages at Mocketts Farm – Fleet, The Farmhouse and Saltings.

Saltings has 6 twin bedrooms, so the Spanish group will take this building in its entirety.

Fleet has 3 twin bedrooms, so the Belgian girls and one teacher will be in this building.

The Farmhouse has 8 twin rooms, the 4 Belgian boys and a teacher will take 3 rooms, and the remaining five will be for the 6 Polish children, their two teachers and I will stay on site as well for the week.

So, we have 22 children, 6 teachers and I staying at Mocketts Farm.

Mocketts Farm is at the end of a long lane with absolutely nothing around it! There is a pub down the road but there are no shops. It is lovely countryside, close to the estuary so it is very peaceful, but you won't be able to pop out for anything. Bed linen and towels are all provided but breakfast isn't, so I will buy cereals, yoghurts, juices, milk, fruit, spreads and have these waiting for you at the farm. You all have catering spaces where you can make your own breakfasts. As I am at the farm with you, I will be able to pop out each morning to buy croissants, bread and milk as we need them.

Premier Inn Faversham

The Romanian group are in The Premier Inn in Faversham. They have breakfast included with their costs. I live in Faversham. My house is just a few minutes walk from your hotel. As I will necessarily be at Mocketts farm, my wife will be around that week as much as she can, to

help you if you need it. Faversham is a small but pretty town, with lots of amenities. If you wish, you will be able to wander into town, which is a simple 10 minute walk from the hotel.

Transport

We have hired two 17 seat mini buses for the week, which I and Colette, who is one of our Teaching Assistants, will drive. We can pick you up from the airports on Monday if you need that and take you back on Friday. I also have a third mini bus, with a hired driver, on standby to help on Monday and Friday should your flight times/needs mean that Colette and I can't get all of you to where you need to be.

The Romanian group can get to their hotel quite easily, as it is a 10 minute walk from Faversham train station. If you wish to make your own way to Faversham, it is quite easy to do from a mainline London railway station, and I can help you with that. However, we can also pick you up at the airport and drive you to Faversham if you would prefer that.

But Mocketts Farm can't be reached other than by car/mini bus, so the Spanish and Polish groups will definitely need to be driven to the Farm – we can pick you up at the airport or from Sittingbourne railway station if you prefer to travel to Kent independently.

Monday 16th May

The Belgian party are arriving by car and will go direct to Mocketts Farm. I would suggest that you break your journey at Canterbury, and have time there before going on.

Spain fly into Gatwick at 7.30pm, so we can collect you from the airport and get you to the Farm for between 9.30-10pm. Given how late you arrive, if you need to eat I would suggest that we all do so on the journey to the Farm, or you wait and order pizza once there. I know that the Spanish are used to eating later, and with the time difference, arriving at the farm at 10pm UK time, is 9am for you, so would you wish to simply order a pizza to be delivered once there?

Poland and Romania to be confirmed.

I suggest that if the other parties arrive in time, I and Colette collect the Belgians and Poles, and bring them to Faversham **to eat at Ask** with the Romanian group. We will then take the Belgian and Polish groups back that evening in time for the arrival of the Spanish group.

Tuesday 17th May

We will need to catch the train to London. The train leaves Faversham at 9.04. The Romanian children can walk to the station from their hotel. **Book the train and get tickets.** It is a 10-15 minute walk. I will make sure that you are shown the way to the station on Monday so that you know where to go. I will have pre-bought the tickets and I will give them to you on Monday, so you have little to do. The Romanian group will catch the train from Faversham.

The train calls at Sittingbourne at 9.15, where the rest of us will get on. It is a 30 minute drive from Mocketts Farm to Sittingbourne train station. So I and Colette will collect the group at

8.15am and drive them to the station in time to catch the train. I will have pre-bought the tickets for this group as well.

The train arrives at London Victoria at 10.21. We are booked into the Natural History Museum in London at 11am. This museum, and the Science museum which is next door, and which we visit the following day, are enormous. They are also free as they are funded by the UK government. They provide a wonderful free experience for the children. We will catch the Tube from Victoria train station to South Kensington tube station, which should take 10 minutes or so, and the museum is just a short walk from the station.

We have 10 adult and 28 children's tickets. I suggest that we spend 2 hours in the museum. We will then walk down to 'Honest Burgers', to pick up a burger lunch. They have vegetarian options. We will have to pre-order what we wish to have. We can go back and sit outside the museum to eat our lunch (provided it isn't raining heavily).

After that, we take the tube from South Kensington to Westminster, and walk down to the river to catch the water Uber. There is a water bus at 3.05pm or again at 3.34pm, which will take us up river to Greenwich. The children will see a great many sights as we go along the river. Depending on what water bus we catch, we will arrive at 3.52pm or 4.20pm. The costs is £4.35 per child and £8.70 per adult.

Greenwich is the site of the old naval Academy, the old Royal Observatory and of course, the Greenwich Meridian. We will walk up to the train station which is just 10 minutes or so from the pier and catch the 4.57pm train home from Greenwich and get back to Sittingbourne soon after 6pm.

We will eat at Nandos in Sittingbourne. Then I can walk the Romanian group back to the train station, and make sure they catch the train back to Faversham, before Colette and I drive the remainder back to Mocketts Farm.

Wednesday 30th

We will catch the same 9.04 train from Faversham, (9.15 from Sittingbourne), to London Victoria and then the tube to South Kensington station. Book the train – request has been sent. The same arrangements will apply.

We again have tickets for 28 children and 10 accompanying adults to visit Science museum and I suggest that we again have 2 hours or so in there. There is an enormous amount to see in both museums so two hours will be well spent.

We can then walk to a Pizza hut restaurant. This is a perfectly acceptable pizza chain, aimed at children and hence it is slightly cheaper than other chains.

We are booked into the Pizza hut at Marble Arch for 2pm. We need to pre-order our food. If we have an hour for lunch, we can then walk down to Buckingham Palace and then on to Westminster to see the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben, before walking up Whitehall, past Downing Street, to Trafalgar Square. The whole walk is about an hour, but allowing time for photos etc, I expect it to take closer to 2 hours. We can then walk on to Covent Garden, which

is just 10 minutes away, where the children can see the buskers and have a couple of hours to do some shopping.

We are booked into Frankie and Bennys on The Strand, at 7pm. Again, we need to pre-order our food. We can eat till 8pm and then catch the tube from Covent Garden back to Victoria in time for the 8.40pm train home. It arrives in Sittingbourne at 9.40 and Faversham at 9.50. So bed for everyone by 10.30. This will be a long day, but it gives the children time to really see London close up.

Thursday 19th

The Belgian and Spanish groups need to leave Mocketts Farm and check into the Premier Inn in Sittingbourne for their final night. So, given the need for a messy start to our day, and the fact that everyone will be tired from the day before, I suggest that this is when we have a gentler day and visit our school.

Spain and Belgium can't check into the new hotel until 3pm. So, if the Belgians drive themselves to our school, Colette and I will drive the Spanish and Poles. I will arrange a separate mini bus to pick up the Romanian group and drive you to our school.

We can all leave the hotels at 9am to get to school for 9.40 or so.

We will arrange tours of the school so that you can all see it. It is very small!!! So we will break our groups up in order to make it manageable.

The children will then work together on a science activity, with some of our own pupils, whilst we have our teacher meeting. We will lunch at the school and then go down to the local park for an afternoon of sports activities, with each of the four visiting countries, and the UK children, mixed into teams.

In the afternoon we will organise an outdoor picnic at the school, possibly with fish and chips, as a final evening together. Then I will have the Romanian group driven back to Faversham, whilst Colette and I take the Spanish and Belgians to Sittingbourne, and then I take the Poles back to Mocketts Farm.

Friday 1st

Spain fly from Gatwick at 8.20pm, so will need to be at the airport for 6pm. So, we should leave Sittingbourne at 4pm. We can arrange a mini bus to do that.

Belgium will travel independently.

Poland and Romania to be confirmed.