



DOVEDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL Willows Academy Trust

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Aiming High Together

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Friday 27th March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

With only a short time before we embark on our Mount Cook adventure, there are a few arrangements to finalise. Firstly, thank you for all making your final payments this really does help us.

Some children may require medication while we are away, which should have been completed on the medical form already completed on Microsoft Forms. If it is new medication, which wasn't written on the form we will send out a second medical form in the week commencing 4th May 2026 for you to complete only if required.

If your child does require medication then there are a few things you need to do.

- Put all medication in a sealable bag, with a dosage spoon or cup.
- Label the medicine and the bag with your child's name and the dosage required. (As you can imagine it is difficult to manage several children's medical needs, so your help with this organisation is much appreciated.)
- Please hand your child's medication to Miss Barrett on the Wednesday morning that we go.
- If your child needs an inhaler, they must hand them in, labelled in a sealed bag, to Miss Barrett.

On the morning of Wednesday 13th May please come to school at normal time. Bring bags into the Year 4 corridor and registration will be taken. It would be helpful to ourselves and the children if you simply handed in any medical forms to Miss Barrett and say your goodbyes so that we can get the children settled. I'm sure you are aware that for some children being away from home is not an easy thing to do and for some it will be their first time, so any prolonged farewells can unsettle other children as well as your own.

On the day of arrival, Mount Cook have asked us to bring our own lunch, therefore a packed lunch is needed for this day. If your child receives a free school meal, they will still be provided with a lunch from our school kitchen, if you request this via the school office by Monday 20th April. This will be a packed lunch and not a hot dinner.

Pupils do not need to be in their school uniform.

The trip will be full of exciting activities, so there is no need for any electrical devices etc. mobile phones. If your child would like to bring a book or paper and pencils to play games on the coach, they are more than welcome to do so. Mount Cook has fantastic facilities and of course, it's a great opportunity for good old-fashioned socialising.



The meals are held in a canteen where pupils can choose from different options. They will never see any child go hungry so fear not; if your child is a 'fussy eater' the centre will find something they like. After a day full of adventurous activities away from home, you will be surprised how their appetites change. Please do not pack snacks or sweets for your child as a treat. Their experience may be spoiled as a sugar rush in the night can upset sleep and tummies.

There should be a chance to buy souvenirs on site, therefore the children may bring a maximum of £5 spending money. Please hand this in on the Wednesday morning in a named purse.

The kit list is attached. I'm sure you can imagine that the children get dirty and clothes get compromised when climbing ropes, wriggling through branches etc. So please do not go out buying new things as I can guarantee that they will get ditched. Some may even not make it home! You simply need a few outfits to do activities in and possibly something to keep clean, to wear in the evenings. PLEASE, PLEASE label up EVERY item of your child's clothing with their name so that when it comes to them packing their own bags, they are able to do so themselves. Every year we have black sacks full of clothing that nobody seems to recognise (of course they wouldn't when it is covered in mud). The experience is supposed to develop your child's independence so please make sure that they know exactly what is in their own bag and if possible, let them pack it themselves as they will be the one trying to squeeze everything in, unfolded, at the end of their trip. Please don't over pack as your child will have to carry their own bag and all our bags need to fit on the coach!

In the event of obscure weather please pack a small labelled bottle of sun screen and of course a water bottle. Children will have access to unlimited fluids at the centre but will not out on activities, so a water bottle is a must. It goes without saying that rain coats are a must too.

Please encourage your child to bring along a soft toy to keep them company at night. I always take mine so don't want to be the only one snuggling up to stop me from being homesick.

We will be leaving Mount Cook at 12:45 on Friday 15th May so are expected back at school by home time. If we are running late for any reason, a Class Dojo message will be sent out to inform you.

Hopefully I have explained everything so that any apprehensions you may have, have been eased. However, I will be available to chat to anyone that needs to ask any questions on Thursday 30th April at 3:20pm. Familiar faces including Miss Marriott, Miss Ashton, Miss Musson, Mrs Homer, Mrs Dowthwaite and myself will be accompanying the children to Mount Cook and we will endeavour to make sure the children have a wonderful time. They will be very well looked after while they are in our care.

We will also aim to post an update on Class Dojo every day and some photos while we are there. Unfortunately, due to us spending time with your children and making sure they are looked after we can't post all our photos. However, I am hoping to organise a time after school, where we share a slideshow of all our photos, once we return from the residential trip (more details to follow for this event).

Yours Faithfully,

Miss E Barrett

