

June 2021



Ralph Allen School

Respect • Teamwork • Personal Best

Dear Parents/Carers

Ralph Allen School Sponsored Walk - Friday 16 July 2021

To acknowledge what has been a challenging year, we are going to have a whole-school sponsored walk on Friday 16 July. This will be part of a week where we are trying to offer our students and staff some alternative activities alongside lessons. It is broadly based upon the National Trust Bath Skyline route which crosses the land opposite the school. It will be a great opportunity for the whole community to come together and enjoy the many health benefits of walking with friends.

The main aims of the walk are:

- **It is a whole school activity** – a rare time for the whole school to take part in something altogether.
- **To raise money** – over the last year and a half it is well recognised the impact that Covid-19 has had on mental health and we want to do our bit for wellbeing. Money raised will help towards purchasing outdoor gym equipment for the school as keeping fit is a fundamental component in promoting our wellbeing.
- **To raise awareness of the Bath Skyline Walk.** This wonderful facility, established by the National Trust who own much land around this area, runs very close to the school.
- **To raise awareness of the health benefits of walking.** Walking is an excellent way to keep heart and lungs in good condition and thus prevent a whole range of illnesses. It also gives a positive message about lifestyle management and dealing with stress.

Route of the Walk. The walk is approx 8 miles/12 km long, looping in a figure of eight past Rainbow Wood, around the University, through Bathampton Wood and Bushey Norwood and back to the school. It is off road, crossing fields and through woods. It is all on public footpaths and tracks. Students must stick to the allocated route and there are many marshal points to guide them, as well as tutors walking with the students.

Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation with the sponsored walk which we are sure will be a very enjoyable and successful day – and please encourage all your friends and relatives to give generously to the worthwhile cause.

Yours sincerely

Andy Greenhough

Headteacher

Important information for the day – Friday 16 July

We would like everyone in the school to take part in the walk. There will be a modified route for students who are physically unable to walk the whole route. The AEN team will be making contact with those individuals who they feel would benefit from this. All staff will be walking, marshalling or helping in other ways.

It is an outdoor event which is great as it reduces the risk of transmission of Covid. Students should have completed a lateral flow test on Wednesday as part of their routine testing. Students will set off in their tutor group and year groups will be set off with intervals apart. It is important that students only walk alongside students within their year group. We are not expecting students to wear masks during the walk, but they can if they choose to. On their return students will have separate year group points at the front of the school to sign back in.

On the day of the walk

Students should come to school as normal on the day and go to their tutor base for registration. After registration, there will be break time to allow students to get a snack and for those students who receive free school meals to collect their packed lunch for the day. Students should also take the opportunity to go to the toilet. After break, they return to tutor bases. From there they will be dismissed at a set time to go to the tennis courts where the year group will gather before starting the walk. Year groups will be set off at scheduled times from 9.50am onwards.

When students have registered on return to school, they are free to make their own way home. Alternatively, they can wait at school and do supervised study until their normal school transport at 3.15 p.m. Study facilities will be available in school for those who wish to stay until 3.15 pm, alongside supervision arranged for any students who are not walking.

Clothing

Students do not need to wear their school uniform and should wear clothes which are appropriate for a walk over fields on a July day:

On the day students should wear:

- Comfortable walking shoes, trainers – no open footwear
- Comfortable trousers/shorts e.g. tracksuit bottoms
- Waterproof – just in case – check the weather forecast

In addition:

- A light backpack - recommended
- Plenty of drinks (preferably water) for the walk (please note, there are no toilets until you get back to school)
- Hand sanitiser
- Snacks; sandwiches; other food as necessary, to be eaten while walking
- All litter should be put in your backpack and taken home with you
- Sun hat and sun cream – if appropriate

Students' clothing will be checked by their tutors at school before the start of the walk, and those dressed inappropriately will not be permitted to walk but will have to spend the remainder of the day in the study room, unless suitable clothing is brought into school.

It is not appropriate for students to take personal music players on the walk, but a mobile phone can be taken (at the students' own liability) so that students can organise how they are to get home afterwards. Phones should be turned off during the walk. We will encourage students to take the opportunity to talk to members of their school community throughout the walk.

Behaviour

It is absolutely imperative that students behave well throughout the walk. We will be walking past private houses, through farmland and around the University of Bath, and the whole experience should reflect well on the school. The route will be marshalled by staff and sixth formers. Students must do as they are directed and not deviate from the route, which will be clearly signposted. There will be several checkpoints throughout the walk. **Students must ensure that they register at school on their return**, otherwise we would be out looking for them.

The students will not be under the direct supervision of staff at all times; however members of staff will be easily accessible if needed. This is in line with B&NES guidelines. Students will be expected to conduct themselves at all times in a safe, responsible and courteous way. They should be aware of the potential danger at the two Claverton Down Road crossings and follow staff instructions.

Students are expected to act on instructions given by staff immediately and without question. Students who fail to comply with staff instructions must anticipate that they will be banned from future trips and visits. Whilst on the trip staff will be 'in loco parentis' of all the students. This is in line with B&NES and DfE legislation.

Please note that past behaviour in school determines whether your son/daughter is allowed on the walk: this is in line with B&NES Health and Safety Policy. We must therefore alert parents to the fact that any student, who has in the past a history of not complying with staff instructions or is currently on the Governors' Disciplinary Procedure (GDP), may well be ineligible for the walk. Students who have a history of not obeying staff instructions or are currently on the GDP will be carefully considered and parents/students will be informed of the position as to whether or not they will be able to walk.

Buses

School buses and taxis will be running as normal to school in the morning and home in the afternoon.

Food and Drink

Students will be able to buy food at breaktime, but the canteen will not be serving food at lunchtime. Students will need to bring a packed lunch which they can take with them on the walk. A free small snack will be available when they sign back in once they have finished the walk. Before setting out, if your child is in receipt of free school meals, they should collect their packed lunches to take with them at break time. Students should be prepared to take their litter home with them and not drop it along the walk route.

Health and Safety

The school have made a detailed health and safety risk assessment of the walk, to ensure that students are able to carry out the walk in safety provided they do as instructed at all times. There will be a first aid point, and a system of communication in place to allow us to know quickly of any problems. In the unlikely event of an injury, we will be able to respond quickly to return the student to school.

Paperwork

We would like all parents/carers to complete the permission slip attached: pupils should return it to their tutors by **Thursday 8 July**. **Students will not be allowed to walk if they have not returned the permission slip.** Non-walkers will spend the day being supervised at school, but we would ideally like to have all students out walking.

Sponsorship

The target is for each student to raise at least £20 for their House team. This year we will be using an online fundraising page to collect sponsorship called *Invest in my Community* and each student will raise money within their House Team; Hippogriff, Dragon, Pegasus or Phoenix. There is an overall school target of £5,000 and each house will be racing to see who can reach £1,250 first.

In order to start donating, please follow the link below where you will be directed to the 4 House Team donation pages, be sure to click on the correct house:

Link to donation pages: <https://app.investmycommunity.com/organisation/ralph-allen-school-3074>

QR code :



Links can also be found on our website

Ralph Allen School Sponsored Walk: Friday 16 July 2021

Student name: Year: Tutor:

- I/we have read the details and I/we agree that my child may participate in the Ralph Allen School Sponsored Walk as outlined in the letter dated June 2021.
- I/we confirm that my child does not suffer from any medical condition that would stop them from participating in this activity. I/we undertake to inform the school immediately if there is any change in this position. I/we give my permission for any medical/dental treatment to be administered in the event of an accident.
- I/we confirm that whilst my child is on the trip as outlined in the letter, I/we are happy that the staff team will be in 'loco parentis' of my son/daughter. This is in line with B&NES legislation and under these conditions all decisions by members of staff are final, binding and without question.
- I/We understand that I/we will be expected to complete the standard 'essential information forms' and all medical/health details on the reply form (below), required for school trips before the group leaves.
- I/We agree to comply with all Health & Safety requirements as specified in 'Health & Safety of students on Educational visits' HSPV2 document (details available on request).
- I give permission for my son/daughter to take their mobile telephone (Number.....), but understand and accept that it must be switched off while on the walk, and if any member of staff deems it necessary, they may ask the phone to be handed in and kept safely until it is deemed appropriate for it to be returned.
- My child normally receives free school meals (please tick if applicable) and would like a packed lunch.

Photo Permissions	
• I/We give permission for photos to be taken of my son/daughter for use in school publications.	
• I/We do <u>not</u> give permission for photos to be taken of my son/daughter for use in school publications	
Transport Home After the Walk	
• I/We can make arrangements for my child to be collected from Ralph Allen School when they have completed the walk.	
• I/We give permission for my child to make their own way home from Ralph Allen School after they have completed the walk.	
• I/we would like my child to stay in school until 3.15pm	

SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL VISITS - ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Emergency Contact Name:

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Home Telephone No:

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Emergency Contact No:

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Medical Information

Name of Doctor:

.....

Date of Last Tetanus Injection:

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Any Allergies:

.....

Any Special Medical Treatment:

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(written medical instructions must be provided if your child needs medication)

Any Significant Medical Information:

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Any Relevant Personal Information:

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Signed _____ Parent/Carer

Date _____

Signed _____ Student

Date _____