

05 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Trip to France – Key Updates

Thank you for confirming your interest in the trip to France in June and for all payments received so far. I am writing this letter to provide some important updates and reminders regarding the visit.

Payment Schedule:

Please see a reminder of the trip instalments:

- Payment 1 (£140) due 19th January
- Payment 2 (£140) due 19th February
- Payment 3 (£145) due 19th March

If you have any issues with ParentMail, please get in touch with Mrs Brown at Main Reception.
Email tbrown@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk

Key Documentation:

Students require a **valid passport and GHIC** (Global Health Insurance card).

To apply for a GHIC, visit the government website: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>

If your child requires a visa, please do let us know as a matter of urgency.

Further information events:

- We will meet with all **students** during Coaching Time on **Tuesday 5th March**.
- All **parents/carers** will be invited to an information evening before the Easter break (**Date TBC**). Please keep an eye on ParentMail for further details.

Attached to this letter are details about the trip accommodation and a suggested packing list. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the MFL department.

Yours faithfully,

Ms L. Hart Dyke

Teacher of MFL

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Ms G Campello-Martin

Head of MFL

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Ms A. Reid

Teacher of MFL

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What to bring

Clothes are likely to suffer wear and tear and also get dirty and wet, therefore you should bring several changes of old clothes for doing activities. Jeans are not suitable for activities as they get heavy and cold when wet and don't dry out quickly. Please ensure that all items are named. Please note, bedding is provided for all guests at PGL centres in Northern France.

Kit list

- ☐ Suitable nightwear
- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Long and short-sleeved T-shirts
- ☐ 1 pair trainers / shoes suitable for walking
- ☐ Swimming costume / trunks if planning to swim
- ☐ Shorts (summer group)
- ☐ Sun hat / Baseball cap (summer group)
- ☐ Hat and gloves (winter group)
- ☐ Waterproof jacket / cagoule
- ☐ 1 or 2 sets of clothes for evenings

Other items

- ☐ Washbag (including soap)
- ☐ Towel for showering
- ☐ Old towel for wet activities
- ☐ Sun cream (min. SPF 30, insect repellent & bite cream)
- ☐ Watch / alarm clock
- ☐ Labelled plastic bags for wet/dirty/spare clothes
- ☐ Small rucksack for days out
- ☐ Drink bottle
- ☐ Pen and pencil
- ☐ Torch

For activities

- ☐ 1 pair old trainers (may get very wet / muddy)
- ☐ Old clothes – long sleeved T-shirts, leggings, sports clothing
- ☐ Fleece / sweatshirt
- ☐ Waterproof jacket (and trousers if you have them)

You will also need

- ☐ A passport for collective passport for your group
- ☐ European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). This is available free of charge. Apply online or pick up a form from the post office.
- ☐ Food and drink for your journey
- ☐ Pocket money
- ☐ Any personal medication

Please don't bring

Electronic computer games, jewellery/valuables etc. We realise students will want to bring their mobile phones. This is at your discretion, but please be aware that mobile phones are not covered by our insurance.

Lost property

Please label everything your child brings – indelible felt tip pens are useful for this. Children are responsible for their own belongings – it may be useful to provide a list of items packed. Lost property is hard to track down after a visit and there is a small charge for returning items.

Safety and security

Our excellent reputation for health and safety is based on over 55 years of successful operation and we comply fully with the recommendations of the UK Government and the Scottish Executive advice on taking school trips.



All PGL centres have been approved and awarded the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge, following inspection by the Adventure Activities Industry Advisory Committee.

Insurance details

From the time we receive your deposit you are covered by PGL's extensive insurance policy, underwritten by travel insurance specialists, Fogg Travel.

PGL Insurance cover includes:

Organiser Liability; Medical Expenses; Personal Accident; Cancellation (e.g. illness or redundancy); Curtailment of Activity; Baggage; Personal Money; Personal Liability.

Excess: Please note there is an excess for some sections of cover. A full copy of the insurance policy can be obtained from the person leading your trip.

Find out more
www.pgl.co.uk/insurance

Contacting your child

Except in an emergency we would prefer that you do not contact your child during their stay as we are not able to pass on phone messages or emails. If in an emergency you do need to contact your child, please do so via their school or the teacher/Party Leader travelling with the group.



Bienvenue à

Château de Grande Romaine

Information about your child's PGL trip to France.

For more details please visit our website www.pgl.co.uk/cgr



You can find out more at www.pgl.co.uk/cgr



What is a trip with PGL like?

A trip with PGL provides opportunities to experience learning in an exciting new environment.

Our centres in France are ideal bases from which to discover and learn about the country, and making the most of the cultural and linguistic experience is top of the agenda.

There are lots of opportunities to practise speaking French, and all our courses help develop self-esteem, peer support, confidence and positive attitudes which all contribute to raising aspirations, motivation and achievement.

Find out more
www.pgl.co.uk/cgr

"This is a fantastic centre and has been a brilliant experience for all involved."

Lutterworth School, Leicestershire

A learning experience with a difference!

A PGL experience is often the start of an amazing new journey for many children.

Established in 1957 we are trusted by over 7000 schools and groups each year because we deliver unforgettable experiences with the best activities, great food, comfortable accommodation and above all, outstanding staff.

A packed programme!

The sample day itinerary shown here gives an example of some of the things you may expect your child to be doing during their trip. In order to experience the culture, history and people of France, children will go out on day or half-day excursions, with a PGL Tour Leader, to local and national places of interest.

Their trip may include some language study relating to their excursions and they may also spend some time doing adventure activities at the centre. During the evenings there will be a full programme of entertainment to take part in, organised and led by the friendly PGL Animateurs.

N.B. This is a sample itinerary and sessions will vary.

A day at PGL

Wake Up 07.00
Wake up and get showered and dressed ready for the day.



Breakfast 07.30
Continental breakfast including croissants, cereals, fruit and yogurt.



Morning 9.00 - 12.00
A market visit
A busy morning experiencing French culture among the sights, smells, noises and general buzz of the local market at Bre-Conte-Robert. A good opportunity for children to practise their French buying a souvenir or some fresh produce.



Lunch Break 12.30 - 13.15
On into central Paris to eat a packed lunch by the Eiffel Tower.



Afternoon 13.15 - 17.00
Discover the sights of Paris
A climb to the top of the Eiffel Tower – and take in the breathtaking sights before a guided coach tour with a PGL Tour Leader taking in all the highlights of this world famous city.



Dinner 17.30 - 19.00
2 course dinner with a choice of options. Some free time to relax and enjoy the centre grounds and facilities.

Evening Ents

Crêpe Evening 20.00 - 21.30
A fun session making and enjoying crêpes. Discover their history while practising French.

Find out more on our website
✓ Centre virtual tours
✓ Guest videos
✓ Photo galleries
✓ Accommodation
✓ Excursions
✓ Activities
www.pgl.co.uk/cgr

"The French excursions were all fantastic" Midhurst C of E Primary School

What is Chateau de Grande Romaine like?

Le Château de Grande Romaine sits in 70 acres of its own grounds, 20 miles from the centre of Paris and 30 minutes from Disneyland® Paris. It's an ideal base to discover the world-famous sights of Paris, practise language skills and experience French culture.

Optional on-site activities include abseiling, climbing and zip wire. Facilities include an outdoor heated swimming pool (available May – Sept), football pitches, volleyball and tennis courts, a games room, common room and a disco.

Explore the centre with our virtual tours
www.pgl.co.uk/romaine360



Accommodation

The centre was formerly a hotel and offers a good standard of accommodation for groups, with 4 – 7 bedded rooms with bunk beds and en suite bathrooms.

The Party Leader and accompanying adults will be roomed close to the children. All accommodation is adjacent to the main chateau building within the centre grounds.

Guests with disabilities / additional needs

Many of our activities and local excursions are accessible for people with additional needs.

For details of rooming and to discuss a suitable programme, please ask the Party Leader to talk to us directly about your child's particular requirements.

Find out more
www.pgl.co.uk/additionalneeds

Food & drink

Tasty and healthy, we take our food very seriously! Meals at Chateau de Grande Romaine are freshly prepared and designed to provide all the nutrition your child needs, including plenty of fresh fruit, vegetables and salads as well as plenty of carbohydrate for energy! We source fresh, regional produce wherever we can and there is always a cultural flavour to our menus. We like to provide a balance between foods which are familiar and opportunities to try dishes with a distinctly French flavour too.

There is always a vegetarian option available but please let the Party Leader know in advance. We are familiar with most dietary requirements, so if your child has any allergies or a special diet for any reason, just make sure the person organising the trip knows about this. There are also vending machines and a small retail shop on site.

Find sample menus at
www.pgl.co.uk/menus