St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs H Thorpe *BA Hons QTS NPQH*

Rossall Grove, Little Sutton, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, CH66 1NN

Email: admin@smota.co.uk Tel: 0151 329 3524

2nd November 2026

Dear parents,

I know that our Year 5 children had a lovely time on their Viking visit to Chester today and they also really enjoyed their visit last half term to Chester Cathedral.

I am writing to you to let you know that both of these class trips have run at a substantial financial loss to the school. This is because the total voluntary contributions received did not cover the basic costs of the visits. As a reminder, the suggested contribution amount is calculated to cover the per-pupil cost of the trip. When the overall contributions collected do not cover the expenses, the remaining cost unfortunately has to be met directly from the school fund. No parent is ever expected to contribute to or subsidise the costs for another child.

Moving forwards, I have taken the difficult decision to cancel school trips for this cohort if sufficient overall voluntary contributions are not received to make the trip financially viable. In such circumstances, parents who have made a contribution will receive a full refund and the visit will not go ahead. This policy will continue into Year 6 and will include the residential visit to the Conway Centre.

If families are struggling to make financial contributions for school trips, I would ask that you speak to a member of staff, in confidence, in advance of the visit so that we can discuss appropriate support. I will endeavor to make a decision about the viability of any school trip at least two days before the date.

If you have simply forgotten to make a contribution for today's visit, or the previous school trip, the payment window is still open on Arbor for payments to be made retrospectively. If you are unsure if you have contributed, please contact our school office and we will be able to check for you.

Thank you for all your support,

Mrs Thorpe
Head Teacher