



Suckley School

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Monday 18th May, 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Class Woodpeckers – Bell Boating Experience

On Tuesday 2nd June, we have arranged for our Year 3 & 4 children to go on a Bell Boating trip. The event will take place during the school day at Upton Marina, Upton-Upon-Severn, WR8 0PB, led by Andy Train, who has been involved with previous school bell boating days. Please arrive on time to school as the coach will be leaving promptly at 9 am. The children will arrive back at school in time for collection at 3.15 pm. For your safety, please bear in mind the coach may be in the lane on your arrival to school and at collection time too.

The bell-boat is a twin-hulled, stable craft with up to 12 people in a crew, who are seated and propel the boat with single-bladed paddles. All the crew will be wearing buoyancy aids. The focus is on working as a team.

Children will need to:

- i. Wear clothing suitable for the weather. Plenty of layers work well if cold (t-shirt, sweat-top, fleece, joggers or tracksuit) to allow for changes in temperature. Jeans are not suitable.
- ii. Bring suntan lotion and a sun hat.
- iii. Bring spare clothes and a towel in one bag.
- iv. Bring a separate bag (to be taken on the boat) containing a substantial morning snack, packed lunch, drinks and waterproofs (ideally, waterproof trousers as well).

Footwear

Trainers or sturdy shoes should be worn. Children should NOT wear wellies - they are unsuitable near deeper water.

If your child is in receipt of hot school meals, you will need to change your selection to a packed lunch. We will also notify Black Pepper that only packed lunches are required, but it is advisable that you go online to check that your order has been altered. Black Pepper needs at least three days' notice of any changes.

Please also take note of the precautions contained in the information overleaf.



Registered Office Church Lane, Suckley, Worcestershire, WR6 5DE
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To enable this trip to go ahead, we are asking for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of the day of £9 per child. Payment can be made via Schoolgateway, where consent will also need to be given. Please do so by no later than Monday, 1st June.

Kind Regards
Suckley School Office

SAFETY AND HYGIENE ADVICE

Paddle-sport on placid water is an enjoyable and safe activity provided buoyancy aids are worn and people are aware of water hygiene. By way of reminder, we would like to share the following information.

Weil's Disease is a bacterial infection normally believed to be spread by rat urine, though can also be transmitted by cat, fox and rabbit urine. Transmission is usually through an open wound or abrasion but can also be caused by ingestion of contaminated water.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms are lethargy, diarrhoea, headaches, vomiting, a high temperature, joint and muscle pains, sometimes referred to as flu-like symptoms.

Notify Doctor

Be reassured that it is a rare illness but it's wise to be vigilant. Anyone falling ill with the symptoms after fishing, sailing, paddling, or other water sports, particularly within the three weeks following the activity, **MUST** see a doctor straight away and advise him or her of when and where the activity took place.

Prevention

To prevent infection, cover scratches and cuts with waterproof plasters AND wash or shower after water-based activities, particularly before eating.

Further advice can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Leptospirosis/>