

24th April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Year 6 Educational Visit – Whipsnade Zoo

We are delighted to be able to offer Year 6 the opportunity to visit Whipsnade Zoo. This will support the children's learning in both Humanities and Science.

Our current unit in Year 5/6 Humanities has a Geography focus. We are learning about different climates, biomes and the unique plants and animals that live within them. Visiting the zoo will help bring to life this learning. Whipsnade is the UK's biggest Zoo and is home to 3,626 animals, many of which are endangered in the wild. The children will experience the heat and humidity of the tropics in the butterfly house, meet giraffes from the African savannah face-to-face at the custom-built high-level viewing platform and walk through the new Monkey Forest habitat.

Especially for year 6, Whipsnade Zoo offers a fantastic opportunity to bring their science learning on inheritance and evolution to life. As pupils explore the different animal habitats, they can observe how species have adapted to their environments over time—whether it's the camouflage of big cats or the specialised features of giraffes. Seeing related species side by side helps pupils understand how traits are inherited and why adaptations within a species is important for survival.

This educational visit will take place on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026**.

Your child will need to bring with them:

- Full school uniform with comfortable shoes or trainers. (There will be lots of walking)
- A packed lunch [no glass bottles please]
- A small backpack [to be carried throughout the day]
- Pocket money to visit the Gift Shop – no more than £10
- Any medication [including travel sickness tablets] clearly labelled with their name to be handed to the office by **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026**.
- No mobile phones/smart watches or electronic devices are permitted, however games for the coach journey are acceptable. E.g card games.

On the day of the visit, students need to arrive at school by **8.40am** for a prompt departure at 9.00am. We will leave Whipsnade Zoo at 2.00pm and arrive back at Edwinstree at approximately 3.20pm. Alternative travel arrangements need to be made for those who use school transport.

The cost of this visit will be **£34.81 per student**, which includes coach hire, parking and entrance. This is a voluntary contribution, however if we do not have enough to cover the visit then it will not be able to go ahead. Payment is non refundable unless due to exceptional circumstances your child is not able to attend.

Payment can be made via the school Gateway. **Payment and consent form should be completed by Friday 19th June 2026.**

If the cost of this visit will cause you financial difficulty, please email the office on [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk).

Please click on the link below to provide consent for your child to attend.

[Y6 Whipsnade Zoo Visit - 7th July 2026 – Fill in form](#)

We are also looking for a limited number of parent volunteers to accompany us on the visit. If you would be willing to attend, please indicate on the form link above and we will contact you if required. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Hayley Hill  
KS2 Humanities Lead

Mrs Charlotte Taylor  
Science Teacher

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