



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL, BIRMINGHAM

MADAGASCAR EXPEDITION 2016

Letter 5

Important Preparations

Dear pupils & parents,

Now that the new school year is under way, we need to confirm and arrange several things which have already been mentioned in meetings with expedition members. To which end, we ask that you read carefully, and act on, the details below.

Itinerary

The expedition itinerary is posted on the [calendar](#) page of the 'KES Wildlife' website (with a [mobile version](#) also available) – *click/scroll through to July 2016*. It contains up-to-date information on our location, flights, travel times and some details of overnight accommodation (where applicable).

In summary, we depart on **July 7th** (Thurs), returning on the **31st** (Sunday). The first week will be spent with Opwall in the northern Mahamavo forest, while weeks 2 and 3 will comprise an overland tour of several nature reserves including Ankarafantsika, Andasibe, Ranomafana and Anja. A [map](#) of these locations is also available on the site.

Passports

Our travel organiser will need passport details from all expedition members as soon as possible, and so we ask that all expedition members **bring passports to Mr Corns** during the first week back after the half term break (**by Friday 6th Nov** at the latest). This is to enable a copy of personal details to be made and forwarded to the travel organiser. Obviously passports should be well within date; but *if you are still awaiting a new passport* (or have yet to apply for one) you must *email to let us know* this (and to say when you are likely to receive your new passport).

Vaccinations & Medical Form

Opwall provides a full list of required [immunisations](#) for travel to Madagascar, which you will need to arrange with your own GP in the coming months (usually by completing a travel questionnaire available from receptionists at the practice, followed by an appointment with a nurse).

J Porter & D H Corns, Expedition Leaders

Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham B15 2UA. Tel: 0121 472 1672. Fax: 0121 415 4327
Email: jp@kes.org.uk, dhc@kes.org.uk Website: keswildlife.weebly.com www.kes.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 529051

While this is not necessarily something to act on immediately, knowing what you will need to arrange is important: Opwall will require an online *medical form* to be completed in due course, and we as organisers will *check* what vaccinations you have received / have yet to receive by the training weekend at the start of the summer term in April. So do get on to this in the new year!

Reminder – Date of Training Weekend

On which note, make sure **April 22nd-23rd (Fri-Sat)** is in your diaries for 2016 and is kept free and clear for the training weekend at Andrews Coppice. This is compulsory for all expedition members, and full details will be issued nearer the time.

Kit List

Again, a full kit list is provided by Opwall, and you should be familiar with what you will need to take. Note that *the school can loan you a large rucksack, walking boots, a roll mat and binoculars*; but you will want to acquire some of the items on the list for yourself, and the Christmas season might be a good time to do so! We are happy to offer advice, particularly if you are considering more expensive items such as cameras – come and talk to us.

A session on packing for expeditions will be given in advance of the training weekend.

And finally... Fund Raising

Raffle tickets are selling well, and you are positively encouraged to purchase more and sell all you can! To do so, send an email to either georgie.scott@opwall.com or rachel.daniels@opwall.com, *stating that you are from King Edward's School, Birmingham, are taking part in the Madagascar expedition 2016, and saying how many books (of 10) you would like to order.* They will arrange payment with you, and can send them to your home address as desired. You can also call them on 01790 763194.

With best wishes,

David Corns & Jon Porter
dhc@kes.org.uk, jp@kes.org.uk

28th Oct 2015