



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL, BIRMINGHAM  
MADAGASCAR EXPEDITION 2016

Letter 6  
**Training Weekend**

Dear Pupils and Parents,

We enclose in this letter some details of the forthcoming expedition training weekend on Friday 22nd - Sat 23rd April, as well as a few suggestions of kit for the expedition itself worth acquiring over the Easter break. *It is of utmost importance that pupils read and follow the information here thoroughly, and **prioritise** the times given for meetings and kit issue.*

**LOCATION & FACILITIES**

The school campsite at Andrews Coppice is located on OS Explorer map 220 at grid ref. 016713 (post code B48 7DQ). It has a hut with running water and a gas supply, though no electricity. There is a (simple) toilet block with plumbing (though users will need to bring their own paper). Coffee and hot chocolate will be available. Phone number (for emergencies only): 07805 145 672.



J Porter & D H Corns, Expedition Leaders

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Email: [jp@kes.org.uk](mailto:jp@kes.org.uk), [dhc@kes.org.uk](mailto:dhc@kes.org.uk) Website: [keswildlife.weebly.com](http://keswildlife.weebly.com) [www.kes.org.uk](http://www.kes.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 529051

## SCHEDULE and 'To do' list

Mon 21st March	4:15	<p>Planning meeting re. training weekend (DHC) to arrange departure &amp; route, tent groups, walking groups &amp; medical talks <b>DONE:</b> tent pairs and groups:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Walking Group A</b> (9)</p> <p>Felix, Alex Khrishan, Josh, Taher Ben, Ashley Oli M, Navjoth</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Walking Group B</b> (7)</p> <p>Rohan, Jed Kunal, Oli S Richard, James, Akash</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>Walking Group A</b> (9)</p> <p>Felix, Alex Khrishan, Josh, Taher Ben, Ashley Oli M, Navjoth</p>	<p><b>Walking Group B</b> (7)</p> <p>Rohan, Jed Kunal, Oli S Richard, James, Akash</p>														
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Tues 22nd March	1:15	<p>Tent issue to each tent group (JP, TJW) <b>DONE:</b> retain tent over Easter, and practice assembly</p>																
<b>Easter Holiday - To do</b>		<p><b>Plan Route</b> see map above, or refer to Bing Maps online for an OS overlay</p> <p><b>Plan Medical Talk</b> resources available under 'Documents you should read' on KES Wildlife site</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">1 - Personal &amp; Camp Hygiene</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Oli S, Kunal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 - Hydration &amp; exposure to sun</td> <td>Richard, Jed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 - Personal medical conditions</td> <td>James, Ben</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 - Bites &amp; Stings</td> <td>Oli M, Navjoth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 - Malaria</td> <td>Felix, Alex</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 - Immunisations: DTP &amp; Typhoid</td> <td>Josh, Ashley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 - Immunisations: Hepatitis (A &amp; B)</td> <td>Akash, Rohan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 - Rabies, Dengue &amp; Schistosomiasis</td> <td>Khrishan, Taher</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Renew passport (Ashley)</b> <b>Complete Opwall portal (Oli S, Ben; Josh, Rohan)</b> <b>GP appointment for vaccinations (as necessary)</b> <b>Kit purchases (as necessary)</b> esp. head torch, dry bags, travel towel, sandals (closed-toe)</p>	1 - Personal & Camp Hygiene	Oli S, Kunal	2 - Hydration & exposure to sun	Richard, Jed	3 - Personal medical conditions	James, Ben	4 - Bites & Stings	Oli M, Navjoth	5 - Malaria	Felix, Alex	6 - Immunisations: DTP & Typhoid	Josh, Ashley	7 - Immunisations: Hepatitis (A & B)	Akash, Rohan	8 - Rabies, Dengue & Schistosomiasis	Khrishan, Taher
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Thurs 21st April	1:00	<p>Kit issue for trg. w/e - <b>mandatory for all</b> waterproofs, boots, rucksacks, roll-mats, Trangias, compasses, binoculars Final instructions for Friday</p>																
Fri 22nd April	4:00	<p>Depart in walking groups (A or B) Meet rest of your walking group at school hut; take train to Alvechurch station; walk to Andrews Coppice; <b>STAY TOGETHER AT ALL TIMES!</b> <b>Set up camp</b> <b>Cook dinner ('Malagasy Feast')</b> <b>Medical talks (DHC)</b> <b>Madagascar Quiz (JP)</b> <b>Bed</b></p>																
Sat 23rd April		<p><b>Breakfast</b> <b>Session 1</b> Survey techniques: trail cameras (DHC) <b>Session 2</b> Survey techniques: light trapping (JP) <b>Session 3</b> Fieldcraft: binoculars &amp; birds (JP) <b>Session 4</b> Emergency action &amp; recovery (DHC) <b>Break camp</b> <b>Return journey to school</b> <b>Plenary</b> air tents, kit cleaned &amp; returned, sign out <b>By 1:00</b> <b>Dismiss</b></p>																

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## PACKING

Blue items below can be borrowed from the school, but *must be returned to the kit store at the end of the training session on Saturday*. Accordingly, students borrowing a rucksack or walking boots will need to leave a pair of trainers and/or second bag in the stores at school for their onward journey home.

Note also that students should leave room in their rucksacks for *tents, Trangia stoves, group first aid kits and high visibility jackets*. These will be shared among the group.

### Essential Items

Money for travel (inc. travel card) | Personal medication | Water bottle | Head torch (plus spare batteries) | WASH KIT: soap, toothbrush & toothpaste | tissues/wetwipes | toilet roll (sheets) | towel | \*Compass | paper or notepad & pencil | sunblock (if desired)

### Kit

\*Large (60+ litre) rucksack | Rucksack liner (large 80 litre dry bag best, though strong bin-liner will do for the trg w/e) | \*Sleeping mat or thermarest | Sleeping bag (3 season) | \*Binoculars

### Clothing

#### Outer layer

Warm hat | \*Waterproof jacket with hood | (Gloves) | \*Waterproof trousers | \*Walking boots (not trainers)

#### Main layer

Suitable walking trousers or tracksuit bottoms (not jeans) | Change of shirt/T-shirt | Jumper | Fleece

#### Underwear

Change of underpants | thick walking socks | Thermal T-shirt (if desired) | Thermal under-trousers (if desired)

### Food

Plastic bowl/plate | mug | knife/fork/spoon/'spork'

*Friday* – evening meal to cook on Trangia stove and share with tent partner(s).

*Saturday* – breakfast, e.g. porridge, hot drink, bread and jam. Cereal bars alone will not be sufficient, but do make good snacks.

You will also want some snacks, especially for the journeys.

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## Do not bring

Lighter or matches (will be provided); alcohol; cigarettes!

## STAYING 'CLUED-UP'

As we wrote in our acceptance letter back in June last year, we do require that students keep good communication about the expedition in what, for all of us, are busy school schedules, especially as the term of the expedition itself approaches. **Pupils *must* read, respond to, and act on emails to their nominated addresses promptly**; though reminder notices are also posted on the '[KES Madagascar 2016](#)' group on Facebook, which all are encouraged to use.

For documents and formal information, the 'Expeditions' section of the [KES Wildlife](#) website is where the following are to be found:

- This and previous letters are on the '[Letters, Notes & Documents](#)' page.
- Under 'Documents you should read' on that same page you can find:
  - [Opwall's Kit List](#) (a definitive kit list for our own expedition will follow after the training weekend)
  - Detailed [medical notes](#) (from NHS 'Fit for Travel' - useful for planning medical talks!)
- Detailed [expedition calendar](#) (entries in orange) showing all preparations and the full itinerary. **Pupils and parents are encouraged to add this to their own online calendars** using the link provided.
- Madagascar [map](#), showing locations of the expedition (use alongside calendar, above).

Wishing you a relaxing Easter, and hoping you are looking forward to the training weekend next term!

With best wishes,

David Corns & Jon Porter  
[dhc@kes.org.uk](mailto:dhc@kes.org.uk), [jp@kes.org.uk](mailto:jp@kes.org.uk)

**21st March 2016**

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