



SHELFORD TWINNING ASSOCIATION

January 2017

Dear Shelford School Parents,

Shelford Twinning Association invites the children of the Shelford villages to experience life in another country for a few days, and/or to welcome children from a different background into their own home. It is also an opportunity for them to build on the French lessons they enjoy at school.

Exchange visits with children at the two primary schools in our twinned village of Verneuil-en-Halatte in northern France have been enjoyed for over 20 years. The Shelford and Verneuil Twinning Associations organise the visits, and offer hospitality to the children of each other's countries. Many lasting friendships have been formed over the years.

VISITS IN 2017

The format will be similar to last year's family visit and parents who would like to accompany their children are welcome and indeed encouraged to do so. Unaccompanied children in the 7-12 age group as well as adults without children will also be welcome.

In 2017 there will be one visit each way, each lasting 4 days.

From here to Verneuil : Saturday 1st April – Tuesday 4th April 2017

From Verneuil to Shelford : Saturday 8th July – Tuesday 11th July 2017

THE VISIT TO VERNEUIL: 1-4th April 2017

NB: All those travelling will require a **passport** and an up-to-date **European Health Insurance card** (formerly an E111 form). If you need to get one of either of these for yourself or your child be sure to apply NOW. The EHIC is issued free of charge and you can apply online.

Wherever possible children stay in families with children of similar age, although it may not be possible to accommodate whole families together. Many of the children are able to stay with an English friend in the French host family, if there is enough accommodation. They become part of the family, joining in family activities and often a local outing. The host families sometimes get together for these.

The various events also give our children opportunities to meet up frequently with each other and with the group's organisers. (Rest assured: there will be enough speakers of French/English to translate

the children's needs!) We try to match the children by age and gender, of course, and also by interests (according to a questionnaire you receive at the next stage). The head teacher of the French school advises us on the suitability of host families.

THE PROGRAMME

Day 1

One day's travel to Verneuil by coach and ferry. : this is taken gently, lasting around 8 hours door-to-door, in a luxury coach with a toilet. We try to involve the children as much as possible in the experiences of the journey. **Unaccompanied children will be supervised in groups of 4 or 5 with one adult during all travel.** All supervising adults have a DBS check. We aim to arrive late afternoon in Verneuil. There are plans for a party for all visitors and hosts in the evening.

Day 2

This day will be spent with host families. We find that families will often get together with their guests to spend the day together.

Day 3

There will be a whole day outing for the entire group to a place of local interest. In the past there have been trips to Paris, Versailles, Chantilly, Senlis, Beauvais.

Day 4

The children (11 and under) will be spending the morning in the school which many of their French friends attend. The adults will have a short visit to a place of local interest. We will then meet up for lunch together in the 'cantine' at school, and then set off back home.

THE COST

The anticipated cost per participant will be **£95**. This includes coach and ferry and insurance. In Verneuil we will be guests in homes, and this accounts for the very reasonable price. All travelling adults are expected to become members of the Twinning Association (£7 single membership / £12 for families) if they are not members already. The only other expenses would be a small gift for the host family and a little pocket money.

If you have any concerns about the cost for your child, please do contact Sarah Hadow (details below), as the Twinning Association may be able to provide assistance in cases of need.

What the travellers pay includes their travel, insurance and some administrative costs. **All the entertainment and activities are provided as hospitality by the two Twinning Associations and host families.** We expect the children to be aware that they are *guests* of the host village and families and to behave accordingly. The organisers give their time and efforts voluntarily in the interests of greater friendship between our communities.

These visits rely on **exchanged** hospitality and many long-term relationships have been built up that way. **Your child is likely to benefit most from this visit if he/she can host a French child during the return visit in July.**

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

You can talk about last year's trip with children who joined us then, or contact Sarah Haddow (tel: 01223 845942 sarah.haddow@talk21.com). There will be a meeting with parents before departure.

PLEASE NOTE!

We need to know SOON who would like to go, so we can book the coach. If you are interested, please complete the form below and return it with a £40 deposit **BY FRIDAY February 3rd** to Sarah Haddow (24 Mingle Lane, Stapleford CB22 5SY). Please book early to avoid disappointment.

The Children's Visits Subcommittee, Shelford Twinning



VISIT TO VERNEUIL 1-4 April 2017

PLEASE RETURN BY Friday 3rd February to Sarah Haddow (24 Mingle Lane, Stapleford CB22 5SY)

Parent/Guardian's name(s) (*whether or not the parent intends to come*):

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Address (incl. postcode):

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Tel. Email address:

Name(s) (and contact details if different from above) of person(s) wishing to go on the visit:

Child Age..... Date of birth: / /

Child Age..... Date of birth: / /

Child Age..... Date of birth: / /

Adult

Adult

Twinning members? Yes ... No ...

How many adults/children will you be able to host in July? (please specify)

I enclose £40/person deposit (cheques payable to Shelford Twinning Association).

Please indicate: cheque or cash Total amount enclosed

Signed.....