

USA Trip 16th-22nd February

January 2019

If you have an
emergency after
school on Friday 15th
February phone:
07815 773274

Dear Parent,

As you will be aware, the departure date for our tour of New York and Washington DC is fast approaching. This letter is written to give an update on preparations, request final important documentation and set out advice regarding packing, money and travel.

You may well have noticed in the news that there is currently a partial government shutdown in the USA caused by an impasse between the President and Congress over funding for the Mexican Border Wall. This impacts us in that whilst the shutdown continues, all Museums and Government Buildings in Washington DC are closed. These form a significant portion of our visits in Washington and therefore I am currently exploring alternatives should this unprecedentedly lengthy shutdown continue. I will send out appropriate updates on this as the situation develops.

Although most of the essential documentation for the trip is already in hand there are still a few items outstanding. I have indicated below if your child still needs to submit any of these items:

Passport details:

ESTA Form:

Code of Conduct:

Final Advice and Information:

1. Please arrive at School at **12:00 noon** on Saturday 16th February. **The coach will leave at 12:15pm.** We will return to school after 12:00 noon on Friday 22nd, but parents should expect a call after we have exited the airport to give a more precise time.
2. You must clearly identify all luggage – labels will be supplied nearer the date.
3. Take your travel medication if you need it. Take extra medication to keep in the First Aid Kit in case you lose yours or run out.

HEADTEACHER ▪ MISS L HISCOCK B.ED (HONS)

Roman Road, Stockbridge, Hampshire SO20 6HA — Tel 01264 810555
Email: office@testvalley.hants.sch.uk — Website: www.testvalley.hants.sch.uk

4. Luggage has an **18kg** limit and should include:

- Comfortable and sturdy shoes for long days. Lightweight slip-on shoes are not appropriate.
- Clothing for cold and possibly wet weather. This should include a waterproof coat (preferably fold away) and waterproof trousers if possible. It will be better to have several thin layers that can dry easily, rather than very thick clothing that will be difficult to dry.
- Hats and gloves will also be essential.
- With strong, cold winds possible, lip salve and/or face cream may be helpful.
- The hotel will supply towels and hairdryers.
- **Any electrical items will need a US adaptor.**

Hand luggage is limited to one piece no bigger than 56 cm x 35 cm x 22 cm including the handle, pockets and wheels and no more than 5kg weight.

5. A small bag or backpack will be useful for each day – but please ensure any bags you carry have a **clearly visible padlock** to discourage pickpockets and thieves.

Airport Information

6. Do not pack in your suitcase any jewellery, money, medication or security documents (Passport). Keep these in hand luggage at all times during the journey.

7. **No sharp objects are allowed in hand luggage**, they will be confiscated and you may be liable to prosecution. Banned objects include:

Catapults,	Razor blades,	Darts,
Cutlery,	Scissors,	Toy or replica guns.
Liquids or gels	Nail files	

Once you enter the airport remember that security is watching, you can be stopped from travelling **or entering the United States** because of a foolish or 'joke' comment. The airline staff and security do not have a sense of humour. Do not try to test them out. Remember:

- ▶ Never leave baggage unattended.
- ▶ Do not look after, or check-in baggage for someone else.
- ▶ Do not carry anything onto the plane for someone else.
- ▶ Always pay attention to your possessions.
- ▶ Think carefully about what comes out of your mouth and the consequences it may have.

8. Electrical devices especially mobile 'phones, must be fully charged and switched off, or on to 'flight mode', during the flight.

Money Matters:

9. Your child will need to bring daily food and spending money into school in labelled envelopes before Tuesday 12th February. The daily amount is at parental discretion but \$35 + a day is suggested, to cover food and public transport costs. Please could cash be placed in 6 daily envelopes each marked with your child's name, the day of the week (Sunday to Friday) and the amount in each envelope. These will be kept in the safe at each Hotel and distributed daily.

Contact Details

10. Staff will only phone parents ***if absolutely necessary.***

11. If parents need to contact the group ***in an emergency only*** then the numbers to use are:

Holiday Inn, Financial District	+1 212 791 2900
Capitol Skyline Hotel	+1 202 488 7500
Test Valley School:	01264 810555
Mr I. Murdoch-Smith (with group)	07815 773274
Mrs T. Briggs (out of school hours)	07554 142842

11. Our return flight is due in to Heathrow at 10:15 and we should hopefully return to Test Valley around 12:00 noon.

12. On return, could parents please park in the lower car park and not in the bus bays as the coach will need to manoeuvre.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further queries regarding any aspect of the trip.

Yours sincerely,

Mr I Murdoch-Smith