

Y6 Residential Visit 2026

When it is?

The visit takes place when children are in Year 6 during the second part of the Autumn term. This year, the visit will run from Tuesday 3rd November 2026 - Friday 6th November 2026.

Why do we take part in a residential visit?

The residential forms an integral part of the Y6 curriculum and it is the expectation that all Y6 children will attend as all of the work covered during the visit is the main focus of our work in school for that term. The children study 'coastlines' and different habitats and environments, which is very difficult to teach effectively from the classroom. The learning that takes place outside of the classroom is outstanding; fieldwork, problem-solving, first-hand experience and working together.

In addition, we are aware that some of the children will be experiencing their first visit away from home, which will help them as they move on to Secondary education, when visits abroad will be offered!

From our experience, taking the children early in Year 6 allows the group to gel and develop skills of team work, collaboration and cooperation which has a positive impact on the rest of their time in Year 6, and indeed, Dunholme Primary School.

Why do we go to Norfolk?

We can't teach coasts as effectively from the classroom in Dunholme! The National Curriculum states children need 'field' experience and learning from hands-on experiences. Going to Norfolk allows us to see first-hand the key features and processes which the children need to learn about. And in a way in which the children will remember.

We have worked with the team at Aylmerton now for many years and the leaders are second-to-none. As such, they treat us like family returning. They are excellent at meeting the needs of every child and they get to know all of the children really well in such a short space of time, helping each child to grow throughout the week.

The accommodation is always excellent and we are always well catered for with three meals a day and drinks and snacks.



Which parts of the Curriculum do we cover whilst away?

- Geography: contrasting location, coastal studies – erosion, longshore drift, sea defences, geology, coastal features
- Science: coastal habitats, food chains and webs, interdependence and adaptation
- English: gathering ideas and language for writing
- PE: orienteering, walking
- PSHE: team-building, social skills, independence, organisational skills, self-esteem, confidence-building

What do we do whilst we are there?

There are activities planned every day and evening so there really is no time for boredom.

The main focus of our work is coastal environments and coastal change.

Some of the activities we do include: beach studies, rock-pooling, a 5-mile trek along Blakeney Point to learn about Spits, team building activities and pirate activities involving harnesses and high rope climbing.

• Beach and Coast Examinations

You will travel to Sea Palling to examine the sea defences designed to protect the broadland habitat and to see how they are changing the very nature of the coast there. You will then visit Happisburgh where the serious erosion of the cliffs is not only leading to the gradual disappearance of the village but could undermine the whole Sea Defence Plan for the Broads.

• Twilight Safari

Very few children (or indeed, adults) have ever experienced the woods at night. The Twilight Safari is an excellent opportunity to do so. Assuming that there is sufficient moonlight, this event takes place without torches although these are obviously carried for emergency use, if required.

Depending on your numbers, your group may be split into smaller sub-groups, each of which will be taken into the woods at 7.30pm for approximately two hours. The groups will experience the woods at nightfall, listen to the sounds of the night, see how their eyes become accustomed to the darkness, hear true stories and play predator and prey.



- **Pirates**

The purpose of this day is the personal development of the individual child combined with team building. It is an extremely popular activity.

The day begins with your group presenting themselves to the 'School for Pirates.' The tasks are presented as the entrance exam to assess whether they can gain a place at the school. The group receives instructions on putting on the safety equipment before the activity begins. (All safety equipment is checked and then double checked by an AFSC instructor to ensure that it is correctly fitted and worn).

The low ropes course stretches many of the children but uncovers hidden talents in others – often the quieter members of the group. For those who can perform the task easily, there are optional harder tasks. No child is ever forced to participate but we are extremely skilled at getting even the youngest and most timid children across. Their pride and sense of achievement afterwards is self-evident! We also operate a buddy system where the children look after each other and give encouragement.

The remaining activities – the bosun's chair, walking the planks and shelter building rely on good teamwork. Emphasis is placed on good communication, co-operation and encouragement and this is continually reinforced throughout the day.



- **Rock Pools, Geology & Erosion**

West Runton is known throughout the world for its geology. The pupils will look at the rock formations, glacial deposits, erratics, fossils (including the site where the famous West Runton elephant was discovered) and the forest bed series. They will also look for evidence of pollution. In addition, the children will closely observe the rock pools for life forms. Great emphasis is placed on conservation and observing creatures in their natural habitat.

We will also examine the cliffs here and discuss the problems facing the community in light of the government's current policy on sea defences. If tide conditions are favourable, the pupils will be able to try their hand at sea defences themselves in the Sea Defence Game and watch the process of erosion

as their castles are eroded.



- **Blakeney Day**

This activity involves a walk across the estuary of the River Glaven at low tide and an examination of the salt marsh environment, the dunes of the spit and the shingle bank itself. The pupils will examine the flora and fauna of these different habitats and reflect on the conflict between conservation and tourism, the problems facing the environment and pollution. The day also involves a boat trip to the seal colony to observe their habitat and way of life and the group will also observe a major bird colony in season. This is probably the favourite day of the course for both pupils and teachers.

- **Marshes, Dunes & Seals**

This is a unique opportunity for your group to spend a day with our marsh experts and discover the beauty and solitude of Blakeney Point. It combines an examination of different habitats with the pleasure of being in an environment that few people are ever able to experience.

You will wade across the estuary of the River Glaven at low tide, crossing the mud flats and examining the salt marsh environment and the wildlife it supports. The children will examine the flora and fauna of these different habitats comparing the sheer abundance of life in the marshes to the paucity of life on the shingle bank and reflect on the conflict between conservation and tourism, the problems facing the environment and pollution



So what do you do now?

Read everything carefully and ensure you pay your deposit as soon as possible to secure your child's place. Then start gathering items from the kit list and visit the Aylmerton Website for any more information. We will be holding a final meeting with all of the relevant information and arrangements in October 2026.