



Avondale Preparatory School

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Friday 26 September

Dear Parents

Romanian Cultural Exchange- Easter 2015

Thank you for taking the time to attend the meeting this evening. Please find below a detailed account of the project that will be initiated this year, in view of forging a strong relationship with Romanian orphans in the years ahead.

A project of lifelong relationship building between two cultures and language development

Beneficiary: Children from the following orphanages: Casa Sfanta Maria, Peter Pan, Donald (Brasov)

The Project

Avondale Preparatory School will be sending a team of between 10 and 16 children out to Romania each year for a period of seven days to teach skills and games and socialise with Romanian children in orphanages. Whilst the initial trip will take place in the Easter holiday period, subsequent trips will take place in the October half term break.

Through games and different activities of craftwork we will attempt to develop their physical, emotional and social abilities. We also want to offer to the children different activities such as trips and outings to different places with an educational interest.

Whilst most of the time spent in Romania would be with children from orphanages, the team would also spend a couple of days in a primary school in Harman where the children will teach one another; additionally teaching staff will take it in turn to teach classes. Trips to destinations after school and at the weekend would be arranged by Avondale Preparatory School and transport would be provided for the children from orphanages. It is hoped that children from the school may also wish to attend, breaking down the barriers between orphaned children and those from more stable families.

As an incentive for achieving well in school and for good behaviour within orphanages, Avondale Preparatory School will support the travel of three or four children each year in the second half of the Summer Term across to England, to be billeted by families here (for approximately 3-4 weeks). This would coincide (pretty much) with the end of the academic year in Romania, so virtually no school would be lost for them.

The motivation of the project

Avondale Preparatory School follows a Christian ethos. Whilst we cannot be called a Christian School, there are a large number of families that support Christian principles. This project, we believe, will help us as a school to look outwardly; this in turn, will help individuals and families, to evaluate internally also. Involvement from children at the Avondale end is completely voluntary; however, we do believe that most children eligible will want to be involved each year. Our aim is to forge a number of lasting friendships and encourage regular communication between both parties of children whilst developing a second language. There will be a Romanian Club established after school in the

New Year, in view of our own children learning some Romanian. Over-riding all of this, we wish to let the children in the Brasov orphanages know that they are very much cared about!

The Purpose of the project

For giving to those children a chance to develop their abilities of communication and opportunities to forge relationships with other children across the world, Avondale Preparatory School (with the help of New Generation Impact) is willing to create a project according to the needs of the children.

The objectives of the project:

Brasov element

- To develop the capacity of relationships and socialisation
- To develop the capacity of communication- language acquisition and future correspondence
- To provide opportunities for learning outside of the orphanage and school
- To provide an incentive for doing well in school and good behaviour within the orphanages

United Kingdom element

- To develop a better understanding of the English language
- To develop life long relationships with a UK family and other children at Avondale Preparatory School
- To develop team building skills
- To develop confidence at tackling new learning experiences outside the classroom
- To raise self esteem

All activities of the programme will be discussed in time with the workers from respective orphanages. Avondale Preparatory School (with the support of New Generation Impact) is willing to offer the beneficiary:

- All the resources that are needed for the activities (materials for games, craft and educational activities)
- Financial resources for activities which need transport or different payments for participation
- Volunteer staff for support and a good deployment for the activities

Tentative Plan

Day 1	Travel to Romania via plane/ coach to Brasov, stopping off at Sinia to see the Royal Palace there (dependent on flight timings)
Day 2	Avondale children to attend Harman School until 12:30pm (separate educational proposal)
Day 3	Afternoon- visit the Peter Pan and Donald orphanages and an outing Avondale children to attend Harman School until 12:30pm Afternoon-visit the Peter Pan and Donald orphanages and an outing
Day 4	Day trip to Rupea to the 'girls only' orphanage; morning to be spent at the orphanage with an afternoon trip to the Salt Mine
Day 5	Day trip (with children from Peter Pan and Donald) to Dracula's Castle and the mountains/ bear sanctuary
Day 6	Outing (with children from Peter Pan and Donald)
Day 7	Travel back to the UK

The Leaders

Stuart Watson is the Head of Avondale Preparatory School and Hannah Sandu, the Director of Music at the school. Hannah's husband was brought up in Romania and has a connection with the church and the charity- New Generation Impact. There is a close relationship between the school and New Generation Impact; it is through the involvement of NGI in Brasov orphanages that this proposal is able to take place- the charity is key to the project's success. It is likely that key leaders from NGI (Vali Stef and Dana) would be able to attend outings to orphanages and beyond also. The children of respective orphanages are familiar with these people.

The school has redirected its charitable work to focus on raising funds solely for the work of NGI. It is hoped that over £3000 can be raised annually through the work of the children. Additionally, much of the school's resources will be re-directed to the charity in the years ahead also. This, in turn, will positively support the orphanages, specifically in the resourcing of ICT. Specific needs (such as providing a small minibus) will be identified each year, giving the children of Avondale a target to aim for when creating fundraising events. Additionally, the Christmas Shoebox Appeal will now provide an opportunity to support the children in orphanages and they can see first-hand how their work has been of benefit.

The school has purchased a property in the San Petru area that will accommodate children from the school when implementing the project each year. The property will support the work of NGI in the future and its use by families from the school will increase in the years ahead. By having accommodation provided, the cost of implementing the proposal is almost halved, thus removing financial barriers to those that would like to be involved.

Dates and Costs

Whilst dates are yet to be confirmed, the proposal is from late March to the end of the first week in April. The cost of the trip would be £220 inclusive for the week (including food, lodging, the cost of outings and transportation). Childcare vouchers **CAN** be used to support the trip.

Should you be interested in your child participating, please may I ask that the return slip below, is completed and returned to school by half term break. This should give you adequate time for reflection. We would ideally like to book tickets for travel shortly after this. Invoices will be raised once confirmation of interest has been received.

Needless to say, your child will have a life- changing experience; I do hope that they will be able to take part.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Watson

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Easter Holiday Romanian Cultural Exchange

I would like my child..... to participate in the Romanian Exchange, planned for late March- the end of the first week in April, 2015.

I would/ would not (delete as appropriate) be interested in hosting an orphaned child for approximately 4 weeks in the second half of the Summer Term.

Signed..... Date.....

Any further comments

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