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27 November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Finland Summer Multi-Activity Adventure
Monday 12 July - Saturday 17 July 2027 (the final week of term)

We are delighted to offer students currently in Years 11, 12 and 13 the opportunity to take part in an exciting new adventure trip to Finland next summer.

Set in the beautiful Finnish wilderness, close to the Arctic Circle, this promises to be an action-packed and memorable experience, with a fantastic range of outdoor activities.

The programme will include:

- **Hiking the Small Bear Trail:** Explore one of Finland's best-known walking routes, following trails alongside white-water rapids and waterfalls, with several suspension bridges to cross along the way.
- **River floating:** Put on a wetsuit, enter the river and enjoy floating along its clear waters while taking in the surrounding Finnish wilderness.
- **White-water rafting:** Take on 14km of river, tackling Grade 1–3 rapids. The route offers an exciting mix of fast-flowing water and calmer, more peaceful stretches.
- **Overnight canoe expedition:** Pack everything you need into your canoe and head out into the wilderness for a two-day, one-night expedition.
- **Fly fishing:** Have a go at fly fishing in the local area and see what you can catch.
- **Traditional Finnish sauna:** Relax and unwind in a traditional wood-fired Finnish sauna.
- **Floorball:** Learn to play this popular Finnish sport.

The trip will be active, challenging and great fun, offering students the chance to try new activities, develop their confidence and experience the outdoors in a truly spectacular setting.

The programme will be delivered by our adventure partner, Adventure Apes. All specialist equipment and activity instruction will be provided. We have great confidence in their experience and ability to deliver high-quality, safe and enjoyable outdoor adventures, and we are very excited about the programme they have put together.

Reading School is an Academy Trust which operates as an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee, not having share capital.
Company name: Reading School. Company registration number: 07475515. Principal and registered office: Erleigh Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5LW

Estimated cost

We currently anticipate that the total cost will be approximately **£1,750 - £1,800 per student**, including flights. The final price will be confirmed once we have established the level of interest and finalised the arrangements.

The cost will cover flights, transport and the planned programme of activities.

Registering your interest and deposit

If your son would like to be considered for a place, an expression-of-interest deposit must be paid through the Evolve payment link by **9.00am on Thursday 3 December 2026**.

The deposit will be:

- **£500** for most students.
- **£250** for students in receipt of Pupil Premium funding.

Please note that paying the deposit does not guarantee a place on the trip. It simply registers your son's interest.

If the number of students registering their interest exceeds the number of available places, places will be allocated through a random ballot. Families whose sons are unsuccessful will receive a full refund of their deposit.

Passports, health cards and visas

All students must have a valid passport covering the duration of the trip and a valid UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), as appropriate. Copies of these documents will need to be provided to the school when requested.

Parents and carers are responsible for ensuring that their son meets all the entry and travel requirements for Finland. Any additional visa or travel authorisation requirements must be checked and arranged by parents, at their own expense.

Travel requirements have changed in recent years, particularly following the UK's departure from the European Union. There are also changes to arrangements for travel within the Schengen area, including the introduction of the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS).

As requirements may change before July 2027, we strongly recommend that parents check the latest guidance and make any necessary arrangements well in advance. Any associated application fees or other costs will be the responsibility of parents.

If a student is refused entry to a Schengen country because they do not have the necessary documentation or authorisation, parents will be required to make immediate arrangements to collect their son. In these circumstances, the school will be unable to offer a refund of the trip costs.

The school will be happy to provide a supporting letter for visa or travel authorisation applications where required. However, school staff are unable to advise on individual visa or immigration requirements.

Travel insurance

Reading School's travel insurance covers the activities included in the trip. However, it does not cover cancellation due to your son's illness, COVID-19 status or other unforeseen personal circumstances.

We therefore strongly recommend that parents arrange additional travel insurance to cover these situations. Please be aware that refunds cannot be guaranteed if your son is unable to travel for these reasons.

Financial support

Educational visits are funded through voluntary parental contributions. There is no legal obligation for parents to contribute; however, the trip can only go ahead if sufficient contributions are received to cover the full cost. The school does not have alternative funding available to subsidise the visit.

For students in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, a reduced deposit applies, and additional financial assistance may also be available through the Reading Promise. Further information, including details of eligibility and how to apply, can be found on the school website.

We appreciate that the cost of a trip of this nature is a significant commitment for families. If you have any concerns about the financial arrangements, please contact me directly. Any discussions will be treated sympathetically and in the strictest confidence.

Behaviour, safety and school expectations

The safety and wellbeing of all students will remain our priority throughout the trip.

As part of the school consent process, both parents and students will be asked to confirm that they have read, understood and agree to follow the school's Code of Conduct for Educational Visits. These expectations will apply throughout the visit.

Students will also be expected to behave responsibly and represent Reading School positively at all times.

Travel arrangements and changes to the programme

We will do everything possible to ensure that the trip goes ahead as planned. However, parents should be aware that the school relies on a number of external organisations, including tour operators, airlines and activity providers, to deliver the visit.

Occasionally, circumstances beyond our control may mean that changes to the travel arrangements or activity programme are necessary. These could include issues relating to health and safety, security, student behaviour or travel disruption.

Reading School reserves the right to amend, shorten or cancel the visit if circumstances make this necessary. The school cannot accept responsibility for the failure or default of external travel providers or other organisations involved in the arrangements.

How to register your son's interest

If you would like your son to be considered for this trip, please complete the deposit payment through the Evolve payment link by **9.00am on Thursday 3 December 2026**.

Please remember that payment registers your son's interest, but does not guarantee a place. If there are more applicants than available places, a random ballot will take place and unsuccessful applicants will receive a full refund of their deposit.

We would encourage you to discuss this opportunity with your son before registering his interest, as the trip will involve a full programme of active outdoor activities and some challenging experiences.

We are really looking forward to offering our students this opportunity and hope that many will be keen to join us for what promises to be a fantastic week in Finland.

Best Wishes

David Tridgell
Educational Visits Coordinator