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Dear Himalayan Club Members & Families,

If the three days of walking I experienced with you over half term is a taste of things to come, I am really looking forward to spending 23 days with you in Kyrgyzstan. Not once did you complain about the distances walked, the weather on Saturday, of aching feet and limbs; you remained cheerful at all times and walked on a tide of happy, convivial conversation. It never ceases to amaze me what you find to talk about but it was a joy to listen to your youthful exuberance. I wasn't the only one to notice you. As we descended into Carding Mill Valley on Monday afternoon an elderly couple were walking up. You may well have not noticed them but they noticed you and they expressed to me their joy at seeing such happy and enthusiastic young people on the hills. It is true to say that Chris, Alice and I thoroughly enjoyed the three days.

I am sorry I abandoned all plans for walking on the Tuesday but with such a good turn out we did not have a second minibus driver, making logistics very difficult. I saw no reason to make you walk for the sake of it, as that would have been counter productive.

Here are a few photos from our days out.











Reminder

I have booked us to have a kit information evening in the Cotswold Outdoor store at Webbs Garden Centre on **Friday 13th Nov. from 6.00 - 8.00pm**. There you will be able to look at kit, try things on, possibly purchase if you so desire, but at least draw up a Christmas wish list.

Christmas Ball

The Himalayan club has been asked if we will clear up College Hall after the Parents' Christmas Ball on **Saturday 5th December**. This is always a messy affair! The bonus for us is that they pay us for doing it, money that will go towards our charity project in an orphanage for disabled children in Naryn. Please arrive at College Hall between 8.30 and 9.00am. It should only take a couple of hours. I appreciate some of you may be involved in sporting activities but if you can come your presence will be appreciated. Hopefully, the Headmaster will feed us with bacon butties!

New Year walk on the Malvern Hills - Sunday 3rd Jan. 2016

We can all do with a walk after the excesses of Christmas and the New Year so this is not only for those in the club but also for family members, making it a social occasion for everybody. We will meet at the car park opposite the Malvern Hills Hotel at 10.00am. The walk will take us over and around the hills at the southern end of the hills and maybe end up in the hotel at about 3.00pm for a warming drink. You will need a picnic. Everybody welcome.

Other Matters

Contrary to what it says on the school website, the departure date will be Monday 11^{th} July, returning on Tuesday 2^{nd} August. Flights will be from Birmingham. Flights will be with Turkish airlines. I will be booking these in the next week or so and also taking out comprehensive travel insurance on everyone's behalf.

For the expedition we will require a special border permit, as we will be relatively close to the Chinese border. In order to apply for these permits I will need copies of passports in March. If you need to renew your passport, please do so before the March deadline for copies. I will contact you nearer the time to request photocopies of passports.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch using any of the methods at the head of this newsletter. In the meantime I wish you a pleasant second half of term and I look forward to seeing as many of you as can at the College Hall clean up on the 5th Dec.

Best wishes, John