

## Visit to China

Dear Parent/Carers,

I am sure many of you are wondering what is happening to our planned visit to China.

As you know we had hoped that we could participate in this amazing visit during April then we moved it to May. However, currently there is a lack of flights to China and once again many areas of the country are facing strict lockdowns. Sadly, this means that this visit will not be able to take place this academic year.

Under the terms and conditions of The Turing Scheme 21-22 (where we secured the funding from), any funds not spent for international visits must be returned by the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022. The fact that our visit not being able to take place was something beyond our control is not being considered, apparently. I have been in contact with the DfE, our local MP and the Turing Scheme to express my frustration about this.

I have been advised to apply for the funding again for the academic year 22-23. This is something I most certainly will do because I am committed to this project. I feel very strongly that our children should have the opportunity to take part in this amazing, life changing visit. And will continue to pursue this, even though I will not be the Head Teacher of Birklands Primary from the 1<sup>st</sup> April.

For those year 6 children, who would have been part of the original visit be reassured we would still want them to be part of this new visit, if they still wish to and if funding is secured.

I appreciate this is probably not the news you wanted to hear, and believe you me, I am writing this with a heavy heart.

If you have any questions please do contact me.

Mrs C Smith



(Head Teacher)