



## COVID-19 / Coronavirus Information

14 May 2021

### **What Boris's roadmap means for us**

As the effect of the pandemic reduces, so the Government is starting to lift its restrictions which gives us some hope for a return to some more active Scouting for all our members. However, we still have to work within some very stringent restrictions which are different from those that apply to schools and sports clubs.

Currently we are only able to offer our Cub Scouts a fortnightly meeting. This is because we have to maintain social distancing at all our meetings so are limited to just 11 Cubs on each evening. We aim to be outdoors as much as possible but the current showery weather is making that a bit tricky.

Similarly, the Scouts are alternating their meetings between a Zoom session one week and a face-to-face outdoor activity the next. This seems to be working well.

Bringing the Beavers back under these conditions is proving a little more challenging as we are not sure they will get the hang of "social distancing" especially since they do not have to worry about this while at school. However, the rules for all youth groups require that they have to keep children and adults 2m apart which makes small group work impossible. Equally we have to minimise the need for the children to handle the same equipment, so throwing and catching a ball for example is not allowed (other than against the wall!). We will contact parents as soon as we are confident that we can provide a safe but enjoyable programme for the Beavers. In the meantime, we will continue with weekly Zoom sessions and have arranged for the Beavers to try "tubing" at Gloucester Ski Centre on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May as a special treat. All parents/carers should have had an email about this.

At present we are not able to hold any residential activities (unlike schools) so we are unable to offer any camps or sleepovers under the current restrictions. We very much hope this will change before the summer is out but we are dependent on what happens with the virus and whether the Government sticks to its roadmap. We will of course be in touch as soon as the situation changes.

Finally, as we have been unable to take in any new members for over a year, we have a growing waiting list of children and young people wanting to join. With the current limits on numbers, we cannot take on any new members at this time but as soon as social distancing is relaxed, we would hope to be able to welcome lots of new Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

If you are unsure whether your child's name is on our waiting list, please contact me to check.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to email me if you have any comments or questions and we look forward to seeing you all as soon as we are able to do so.

Kind Regards,

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