



Pioneer 2025

Pioneer Site

- ▶ They are a Christian owned and operated charity (a facility of Northampton Association of Youth Clubs) and they aim to demonstrate their faith through their cheerful and good-mannered service.
- ▶ Situated in stunning countryside on the edge of the Wyre Forest. Pioneer's unique location offers an opportunity for young people to experience the outdoors like never before.
- ▶ Plenty of social spaces, warm and comfortable rooms, plus lots of outdoor space to run their activity programmes.
- ▶ Secure area with only staff members and other schools on site. No public access to the areas we use.
- ▶ With plenty of different activities there's lots of opportunity to learn new skills, conquer fears and have plenty of fun!.
- ▶ <https://pioneercentre.org.uk/>





Dates and Times

- ▶ Monday 31st March - Wednesday 2nd April
- ▶ Children to arrive in school between 9:45 and 10:00 (if your child needs to come to school at normal time please let us know)
- ▶ Labelled cases to be left at the front of the school if dry, or put straight on the coach, if possible.
- ▶ They will need a packed lunch for Monday 31st March
- ▶ Children to register in the hall with group leaders - Hand over any medication
- ▶ Return to school Wednesday @ approximately 2:45 - If this time changes, we'll send a text message

Staffing

- ▶ Group Lead - Mrs Bonser
- ▶ Mr Sim, Miss Ryman, Mrs Kearney & Mrs Edmondson
- ▶ Site Staff
- ▶ Trained instructors lead all the day and evening activities. One instructor per group.
- ▶ Duty member of staff remains on site overnight.

Activities and Groupings

- ▶ All activities are on the Pioneer Site.
- ▶ Children will be in groups of ten to twelve with their own instructor.
- ▶ Children will rotate round the activities over the three days - All children will participate in all activities.
- ▶ You have a list of the day groups in your pack.
- ▶ Each day group will have a member of staff attached with them and will support them with the activities during the day.
- ▶ There is an emphasis on team work, supporting and encouraging each other but staff are sensitive and will only gently encourage pupils to fully participate.

Climbing



This is a great introduction to the Olympic sport of rock climbing, where groups support each other through 'group belaying' as they climb our soaring towers. This session builds confidence as they take on the challenge at their own pace, from the first few steps off the ground to races and challenges to build coordination and bravery. Participants will attempt to complete a single, or multiple, climbing routes ranging in difficulty from easy to more challenging.

High Ropes



Leap Of Faith

A true test of bravery, once you're ready for the jump, the instructor will provide a countdown before you leap from the platform and attempt to grab a hold of a trapeze bar, hanging high above the group. Throughout the process, your teammates will be cheering on and offering encouragement. You can opt to stop your attempt at any point, and each stage is taken at your own pace to encourage building confidence and overcoming fears.

Beams & Vines

First you will set your target, what goal you would like to fulfil, and then another test of bravery. Each person takes it in turns to navigate across our balance beams while climbing up to new levels, each time hoping to achieve your desired goal. Focusing on how we deal with difficult situations and how we push ourselves to reach our targets. It's the perfect session for personal achievement, especially when the rest of the group are cheering your name!

Laser Tag



Fencing



Want to try out a physically challenging and exciting sport? Fencing is all of that and more. You will start by learning the basics from instructors with nationally recognised qualifications, before moving on to try it out in a safe environment against your peers through a variety of duels and challenges. Though fencing is a form of sword play, protective safety equipment will be provided, and safe techniques will be taught and enforced by your instructor.



Abseil



Abseiling gives you the opportunity to take over control of your descent as you make your way down the height of our tower. Learning to manage your own ropes and speed can be a daunting task at first, but each step is broken down into easily digestible bits of information and the process is taken at the individual's pace. This session offers the perfect environment to conquer your fears and encourage team bonding as your group celebrates each step down the tower.



Zip Wire

- The Zip Wire lets you feel the thrill of flying. Jumping from the top of the tower will get your adrenaline levels up and will strengthen your mental strength. This a great way to learn to overcome fears and learn to celebrate the success of others and yourself. Your team members will be able to cheer you on either from the ground or from the top of the tower and help support you through any potential fear you may face while facing this challenge.



Inflatable Challenge

► Who doesn't love a bouncy castle or two (or three)?! We take part in a variety of games and challenges across 3 large inflatables. These activities can teach the importance of healthy competition, social interaction, and physical exercise.



Low Ropes

- ▶ A highly creative session. The low ropes courses feature a series of challenging obstacles that allow for a number of games and challenges that test the groups teamwork with focus around listening, communication, leadership and support.



Outdoor activities

An itinerary for each day is available on the Y6 website page

- ▶ Inflatable Challenge
- ▶ Low Ropes
- ▶ Fencing
- ▶ Abseil/Zip Wire
- ▶ Caving
- ▶ Laser
- ▶ Climbing
- ▶ High Ropes
- ▶ Games



Games/Shop/Awards

- This session is a great bonding and teamwork-based session. This allows for a more relaxed game experience. This session contains a variety of games ranging from bean bag steal to the elephant race and can be adapted for participants of all ability levels. This session is run either outside on our activities field or inside one of our large venue rooms depending on the ground conditions and time of day/year.



Open Session

This is a relaxed evening which is self-organised activities led by school staff. Pioneer supply us with activity packs e.g. sports equipment, Orienteering pack etc. The sweet shop will be open for 15 - 30 minutes - depending on how many other schools are on site wanting to use the shop - on this evening



Daily Itinerary

St Marks CE Junior School Activity Programme 31st March-2nd April 2025

	Monday 31st March				Tuesday 1st April							Wednesday 2nd April			
Session Times	2-3.30	4-5.30	DINNER TIME	7.00-8.30	9.30-11	11.30-1	LUNCH TIME	2-3.30	4-5.30	DINNER TIME		9.30-11	11.30-1	Lunch Time	Depart & Goodbyes
	Session 3	Session 4		Session 5	Session 1	Session 2		Session 3	Session 4		Session 5	Session 1	Session 2		
Group 1	CLIMBING	ABSEIL/ZIP		INFLATABLE CHALLENGE	HIGH ROPES	LOW ROPES		LASER	CAVING		OPEN SESSION	FENCING	GAMES AWARDS SHOP		
Group 2	HIGH ROPES	INFLATABLE CHALLENGE		CAVING	FENCING	LASER		ABSEIL/ZIP	LOW ROPES		OPEN SESSION	CLIMBING	GAMES AWARDS SHOP		
Group 3	LASER	HIGH ROPES		FENCING	CAVING	INFLATABLE CHALLENGE		CLIMBING	ABSEIL/ZIP		OPEN SESSION	LOW ROPES	GAMES AWARDS SHOP		
Group 4	CAVING	LASER		FENCING	LOW ROPES	ABSEIL/ZIP		INFLATABLE CHALLENGE	HIGH ROPES		OPEN SESSION	CLIMBING	GAMES AWARDS SHOP		
Group 5	FENCING	CAVING		INFLATABLE CHALLENGE	LASER	ABSEIL/ZIP		LOW ROPES	CLIMBING		OPEN SESSION	HIGH ROPES	GAMES AWARDS SHOP		

Meals



- ▶ Packed lunch for Monday - Disposable if possible
- ▶ Drinks bottle that can be refilled
- ▶ The centre has a large dining hall so our whole group can sit together for meal times. They provide three meals a day.
- ▶ For breakfast; a cooked breakfast, cereals, toast and fruit juice.
- ▶ For lunch and dinner; 2 courses that are accompanied by their varied salad bar.



Bedrooms

- ▶ At Pioneer, they believe in fostering a sense of independence and simplicity. While they provide all the necessary bed linen for a comfortable stay, guests will kindly make their own beds upon arrival and strip them on departure. Please remember your towels and personal toiletries.
- ▶ All bedrooms come with the convenience of an en-suite bathroom. The bathrooms are fitted with bath and shower facilities.



Bedrooms - Forest Lodge

Ground floor - Boys



Bedrooms - Tree Tops Lodge

First Floor - Girls



Direct onto
main carpark



Kit required

- ▶ Please see kit list. This is in your pack and is also available on the Y6 page. **PLEASE ensure items are named, especially coats.**
- ▶ Please take into consideration the weather for the days we are away. We will continue with the activities, even if it is wet.
- ▶ Suitable footwear for indoors is required. The children will need to change their footwear when they enter the lodges.
- ▶ We strongly suggest children have two pairs of outdoor shoes.
- ▶ Long hair must be tied back for all activities.

Prohibited Items

- ▶ **No** mobile devices, including iPads
- ▶ **No** spray deodorants (These can set off the smoke detectors)
- ▶ Children are welcome to bring a camera - please make sure it is clearly named and children know how to use them. They can bring a charger if necessary. The camera must not have access to the internet.
- ▶ Other electrical items such as hair driers and hair straighteners are not allowed.
- ▶ **No** Fizzy drinks/Energy drinks
- ▶ **TO TAKE PART IN ACTIVITIES NO JEWELLERY CAN BE WORN**

Pocket Money

- ▶ There is small shop on site, selling refreshments and small souvenirs. There are limited access times to this facility.
- ▶ Pocket money is at your discretion however, if your child would like to bring some, a maximum of £5.00 is recommended.
- ▶ Money should be in a purse/wallet clearly marked with your child's name and school and kept safely in their luggage.
- ▶ Please bring change/coins and **NOT NOTES**.

Tuck Shop - for a sweet treat

The *Tuck Shop* is the go-to spot for a quick treat, from chocolate and sweets or those essential items you might need during your stay. While not always open, the Tuck Shop will be made available **ONLY** during our evening open session.

Trading Post - A shop for unique finds

This charming little shop is nestled on the grounds of the Pioneer Centre. The Trading Post offers a delightful selection of merchandise and small gifts to remember your adventure with them, like pens, sunglasses, hats and more. This will be open on our final day.



Communication

- ▶ Whilst there is Wi-fi on site, we have struggled to upload multiple images to the website in the past. Pictures will be posted on the Y6 website page if the Wi-Fi allows it. (if you do not wish for your child's photo to be uploaded to the school website please tell your group leader).
- ▶ We will do our utmost to include all children, but some children are less willing to be photographed than others!
- ▶ We will send some text messages to let you know how we are getting on.
- ▶ If there is any deviation for our return time, we will send a text message out.

Medical and health Matters

Contact Information

- ▶ Please report any additional medical information at the earliest opportunity e.g. new medication, recent illnesses etc so our information can be kept up to date.
- ▶ Any medication that your child needs to take whilst away, will need to be handed to your group leader on the day of departure with clear instructions on how to administer.
- ▶ Any medication will be dispensed by members of staff in pairs.
- ▶ We also request permission to administer Calpol or Piriton if required (This was signed on the medical form that you have all completed).

Risk Assessments

- ▶ The risk assessment from school will be sent off for validation by the Local Authority.
- ▶ The Pioneer Centre have also completed risk assessment for all the individual activities, as well as the site. These are available to see on their website.

Questions?

- ▶ If you think of any questions after this meeting please feel to phone and leave a message, email or speak to us in the playground.
- ▶ clerical@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk