

# Hints and Tips for Visiting Primary Schools by Ingestre's very own Art Teacher Heather Higgins

- to make your Ingestre Experience easier for you!

## Before You Arrive

- **Suggest your children practice being away from home;** sometimes, we experience a little homesickness, especially if they've never done a sleepover at grandparents, or friends before) a dry-run can help prepare them, and their parents for their residential
- Younger children could bring a cuddly toy/puzzle book/reading book/small, non-electrical (inexpensive) toy to occupy them – one school encouraged all their children (and Staff) to **bring a soft toy; a little slice of home is very comforting!**
- **Plan what you're going to be doing with your children in the evenings** – have a few 'wet weather' plans in case you can't use the grounds, delegation is key; try to spread the tasks between your accompanying staff and play to their strengths – it doesn't need to be all arts-based
- **Think about Bedtime** – lots of younger children get very tired by the end of the week; bedtime may well be an opportunity to read to them and encourage them to settle to sleep faster
- **Ask parents to let you know if their child requires a night light, a plastic sheet, or has trouble getting to sleep...** forewarned is forearmed! You can prepare for your week away by having a bedtime strategy; plenty of

structure so there's no time to be homesick, and clear bedtime rules

### **While You're Here**

- **Children, as you know, need structure and reminders.** The best stays are often ones where the Staff get involved with the learning and learn too, we love it when you get as dirty as the children in the Art Studio! Remind them that they are ambassadors for your school; maybe have an awards ceremony at the end of the stay for those children who have made the most impact for effort, behaviour and being a credit to the school?
- **Be mindful of the stairs here at Ingestre Hall;** there are lots, and small people do like to jump down the last few! We'd like to make sure your children go home in one piece, please help them to use each step and be safe when coming downstairs
- We have plenty of Outdoor Sports Equipment in the Visiting Staff Room cupboards – all labelled up and ready to be used; torches for night walks and a newly updated list of our 3D film titles. Please use them in our grounds to occupy the children on the evenings – and let us know if there are things you think we should have that we don't!
- If you haven't been to Ingestre before and you're not sure, or even if you don't have your own children and you don't know when to send them to bed, we have tons of experience, so please just ask us. **Our Staff are willing to help and always available for a chat**