

Squirrels

Welcome

**Please read this document fully
it will answer a lot of questions**

Dear Parent's

Welcome to the 7th Darlington Sea Scouts, Squirrels Drey, part of the only Sea Scout Group in Darlington. We meet every Wednesday night 5pm to 6pm during term time at Darlington Christian Fellowship 80 Yarm Road Darlington DL1 1XF

Throughout the year your child will be working towards various badges and will be asked to complete work at home, please encourage and support them to complete and return work as soon as possible. Your child will have the opportunity to take part in events, activities, competitions, outings, and camps.

We charge **£3.75 per week** to cover the cost of hall rent, badges & materials etc, and to cover the cost of insurance for your child and the assets of the group (district, county and headquarters capitation fees) we take sub payments by our online system OSM on the 1st of the month. We must also charge subs for any weeks your young person misses such as sickness, holidays etc. This is to ensure your child's place is kept in the group and insurances are kept up to date.

Please send your child with a coat and a full water bottle with all emergency medication such as inhalers/EpiPen's etc every week and to any other event camp or activity.

If your child is absent for more than 3 consecutive Wednesdays, we must assume they have left, unless the Squirrel Scout Leader is informed. It is important that a Leader is informed if your child is wishing to leave Squirrels, so that their place can be filled with someone from our waiting list.

It is the absolute responsibility of the parent's & carers to contact the leader for any information or letters that may have gone out on the night your young person is absent. Please do not assume the leader will get this information to you please ask. Our group Facebook Parents Page is the best source for current information please search for 7th Darlington Sea Scouts and ask to join.

When you arrive on a Wednesday parents & carers must escort children to the hall doors at the beginning of the night and pick them up from the hall doors at the end of the night.

It is understandable that you may have queries or questions for leaders, but we ask that you don't save these up for a Wednesday as this is not the best time to speak to the leaders as they are busy running the session with all the children, please message phone or email, contact details are below.

All sections of Scouts (Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Explorers) are required to wear uniform to all events unless you have been told not to by the relevant leader. Even in the instance of being told uniform is not suitable for an activity the Necker should be worn or on show always.

Below is a Squirrel information page for your young person, it has the Squirrel Scout Promise and Law on. To become a member of any Squirrel Drey your child will need to learn and remember these. This page also lets you know where badges go on the uniform.

You will receive an email from a system called OSM. This system securely stores all your child's details and contact information. Please log into the system regularly and update all information as needed. We must stress it is your responsibility to keep the information up to date and this is our information for Emergencies!

We also have a website with a member's area www.7thdarlingtonseascouts.org.uk and a private Facebook group for parents '7th Darlington Sea Scouts' please join this group as it's the best way to get latest updates and information also we share pictures of camps and events for you to see.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Tina Lucas – Squirrel Scout Leader

Email: squirrels@7thdarlingtonseascouts.org.uk

Richard Smith – Group Scout Leader

Mob: 07771 415936

Email: gsl@7thdarlingtonseascouts.org.uk

Web: www.7thdarlingtonseascouts.org.uk

Facebook: 7th Darlington Sea Scouts

COMPLAINTS

Sometimes we make mistakes! We always try our best, but your help and understanding are always appreciated! if you're not happy Facebook isn't the place, you must speak to richard who will resolve your complaint or escalate up to district.

It is best to talk so please do get in contact and we will hopefully resolve your problem. We follow the national rule book given to all Scout Association Groups called P.O.R. you can view a copy online.

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/por>

We also ask that you appreciate that all our adults are volunteers completely unpaid and giving up lots of time to run and operate the group.

We are Social



Web

www.7thdarlingtonseascouts.org.uk




Facebook

7th Darlington Sea Scouts

***** PLEASE NAME ALL UNIFORM *****

Uniform

Uniform can be purchased from our website by clicking the  button on the homepage and selecting the correct jumper/shirt **and** Necker. Alternatively, you can purchase these items on a Wednesday night. All badges and woggles will be supplied by the group.

We seriously advise to get uniform that is slightly too big as your young person has many years of growing yet to do!

Once your young person has decided they wish to stay with the group please visit the website www.7thdarlingtonseascouts.org.uk or see a leader to purchase the correct items and we will then arrange with you to invest them into the group after they have learnt the Promise and Law.

Below shows the uniform required



Squirrels Jumper £14.50



Necker £5.00

Communications

With many ways of communicating these days we often find Facebook is a good medium to keep all up to date with information last minute changes and notifications of camps and activities. We use emails and texts, but Facebook allows all to see the most current information quickly often before we send texts and emails.

If you are on Facebook and can join the closed parents' group, please search for '7th Darlington Sea Scouts' and ask to join.

We understand not all have Facebook for various reasons and we will always try our best to communicate information to all. We use OSM for camps and activities and can email info to parents and share them on the groups Facebook account.

This will cut down on the cost of printing and retaining information it also generates spreadsheets with the information which is easier than looking through sheets of paper.

Communications During Camps and Activities

All leader's follow The Scout Associations communication and 'in touch' policy

Communication channels must be kept clear and only direct, important and emergency information should be transmitted between parents and leaders. This is to prevent misinformation which can cause undue distress.

So, what does this mean?

We ask that you do not contact leaders but instead use the in-touch person instead. All camp forms have a person that parents can contact should there be a need to pass on a message likewise this person will contact parents with any necessary information. Posts to Facebook will still happen but this will not be done until all leaders and children are returned safe from the activity / camp. We may post brief updates letting parents know everyone is happy and ok.

We also ask parents not to contact other adults involved in the group who may not be at camp as they will have no more information than yourselves.

These rules sound strict and unfair, but they have proven to work over a very long time for Scout Groups across the country in ensuring only important information is

cascaded to the correct people I realise this may be the first time your child has stayed away but please enjoy the fact that they are having a fantastic time learning new skills and making new friends AND enjoy the peace for the weekend!

I assure you that if it is necessary, we will contact you but for the safety and security of the activity / camp we can no longer respond to individual texts / Facebook posts. Quite often where we camp, we have poor or no mobile signal and have alternative arrangements in place for contacting people.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this then please speak to your child's section leader or myself and hopefully we can answer any concerns you may have. The group has been around for over 100 years and the combined camping experience of the current leaders is well over 100 years. It may be your child's first time, but it certainly isn't ours! I hope that gives a little peace of mind for you.

Behaviour Policy

All Children are different and have very different needs and understanding of the world around them. We will always help support and understand all children, but we ask you are honest with the leaders should your child have additional needs. This allows our leaders to understand change or amend our way of working and even accept certain traits and behaviours. We will always challenge poor behaviour but always in a unique way to the child we are speaking to.

That said we still need good behaviour from all our young people in the group. Should we have a problem with your child we will of course speak with you and working together we will ensure the young person is supported in making better choices. For the groups full policy please see 'Group Behaviour Policy' on the members area of the website.

**We will never accept bullying
we will ask members to leave the group if it continues.**

Squirrels

The Squirrel Scout Promise

I promise to do my best
To be kind and helpful
And to love God.

The Squirrel Scout Motto

Be prepared

We always shake with our left hand and salute with our right