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FAIRFAX ACADEMY TRUST

THE GAMBIA / EASTER 2024



A silhouette of a person standing on a dark, rocky outcrop, facing away from the viewer with their arms raised in a 'V' shape. The person is wearing a backpack and a long-sleeved shirt. The background is a vast, open landscape under a sky transitioning from a deep blue at the top to a warm orange and yellow near the horizon, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is one of achievement and personal growth.

Personal Development

“I cannot thank you enough for the experience back in 2019 I have found it to have carried me through so many interviews and it has taught me so many fundamental lessons about caring, communication skills, organisation you name it! ”

‘DEFINITELY NOT A HOLIDAY’

OVERALL AIM: STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

- ▲ Work together as a team
- ▲ Learn about yourselves (capabilities and limitations)
- ▲ Develop self-confidence
- ▲ Investigate personal risk management
- ▲ Enhance soft skills (empathy, communication, self-awareness)
- ▲ Become more ‘worldly wise’
- ▲ Gain satisfaction from helping others
- ▲ **Above all, HAVE FUN!**



CORE ELEMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

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SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS



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Try something new!

FOOD



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DRINKING WATER



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TRAVEL



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COMMUNICATION



CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Make new
friends



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Make a
difference

COMMUNITY/CONSERVATION PROJECTS



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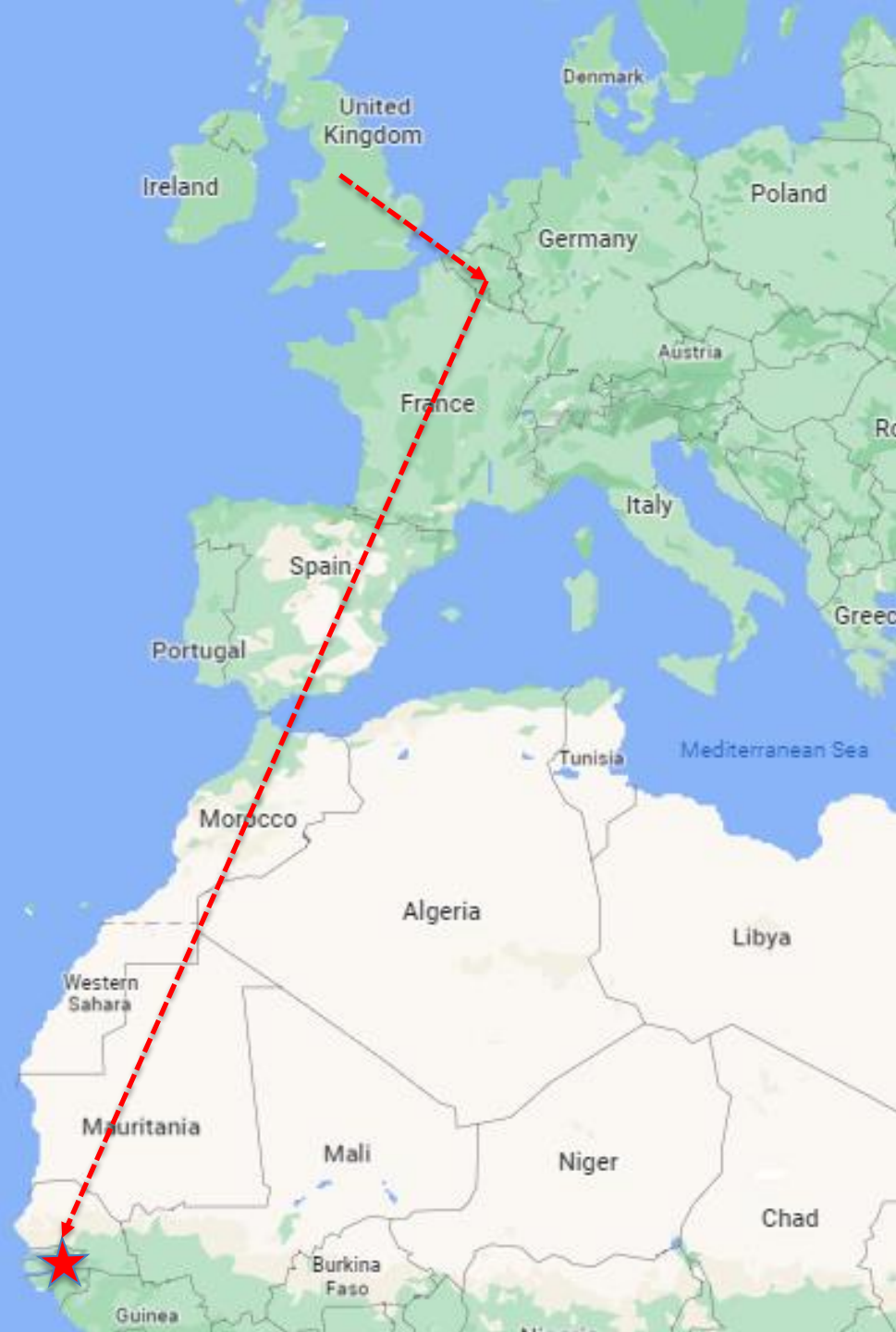
ADVENTURE



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YOUR EXPEDITION



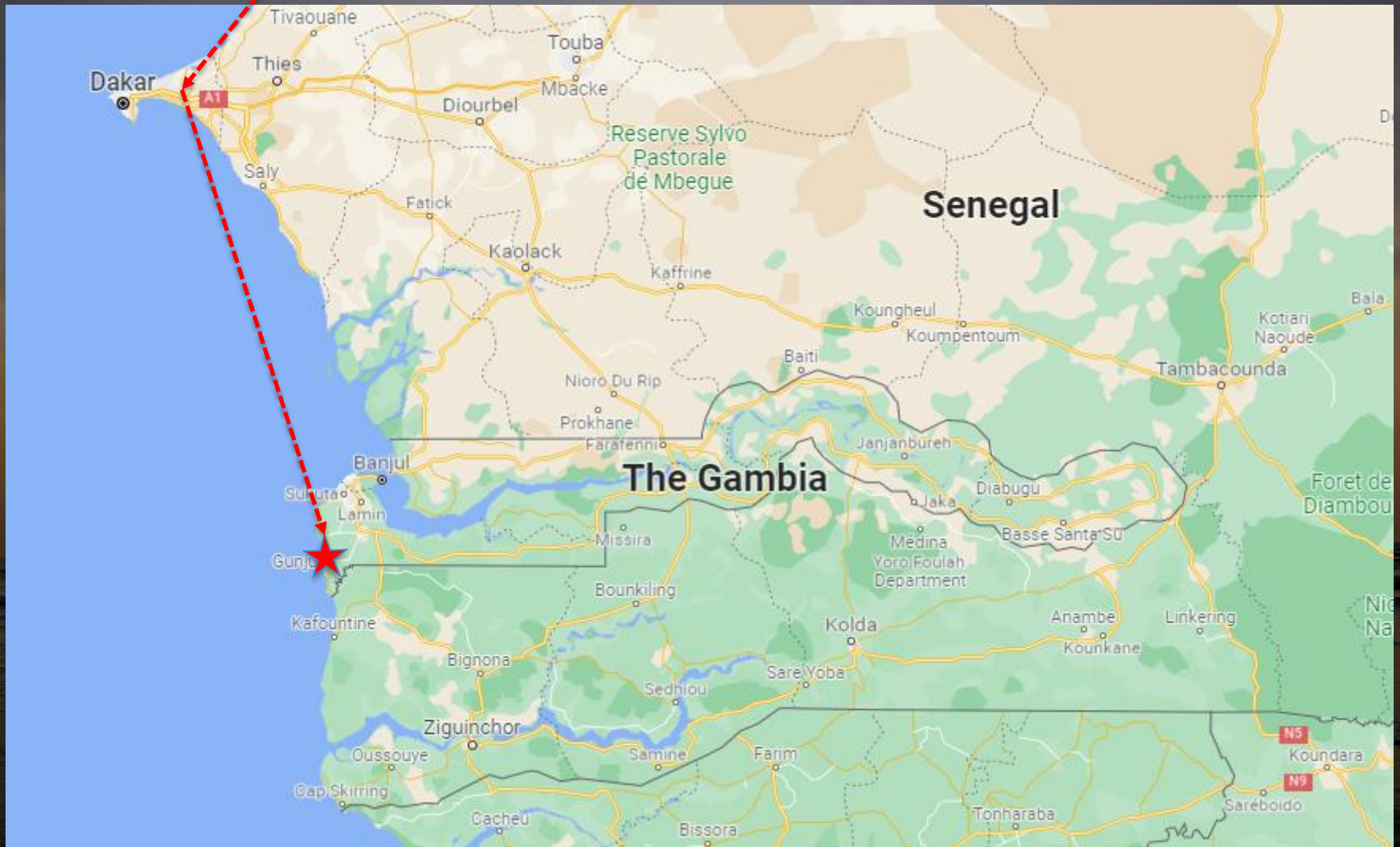




Photo credit Fiona Yang









WORTHWHILE AND SUSTAINABLE PROJECT

Photo credit Fiona Yang

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COMMUNITY PROJECT



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Photo credit Fiona Yang



GAMBIAN TRANSPORT



REPTILE CONSERVATION



HALAHIN EARLY MORNING RIVER SAFARI

Photo credit Fiona Yang

TURTLE CONSERVATION



Photo credit Fiona Yang

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HISTORY OF THE SLAVE TRADE



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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



- “[forest] restoration isn’t just one of our climate change solutions, it is overwhelmingly the top one,” Prof Tom Crowther, Ecologist and Scientific Advisor to the UN
- Planting trees is something everyone can get involved in. It doesn’t need politicians to agree!
- Venture Force will be off-setting carbon from the expedition flights
- Carbon is calculated using CarbonFootprint.com calculator to determine the number of tons per flight. 4 trees are planted per ton of carbon – as advised by Trees for Life, Scotland
- Venture Force donate funds to the OIC who plant trees on our behalf as part of their jungle reforestation work



SAFE – WORTHWHILE EXPEDITIONS ‘DON’T HAPPEN BY CHANCE’

SAFETY AND LICENSING

THE VENTURE FORCE CORE TEAM



Tom Tuckwood

Co Director & Expeditions Manager



Graham McDonald

Co Director & Expeditions Manager



Chris Jopling

Expeditions Manager

Kate Reynolds
Office Administrator



Bouba Touray
In-country Agent



Susie Chesher
Systems & Compliance Manager



SAFETY: ACCREDITATIONS AND LICENCES

LICENCED, ACCREDITED AND EXPERIENCED

- ▲ Licenced by the Adventurous Activities Licensing Authority (AALA)
- ▲ Fully inspected member of the Expedition Providers Association (EPA)
- ▲ Fully compliant with British Standard 8848 for overseas expeditions
- ▲ ATOL protected
- ▲ Awarded the LOTC Quality Badge for overseas expeditions
- ▲ Fully insured
- ▲ Robust and proven Risk Management System
- ▲ All programmes independently assessed by Venture Force technical advisers



SAFETY: EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

- ▲ Emergency Management System
- ▲ Emergency Ops Room staffed by qualified and experienced operators:
 - ▲ 24 hrs coverage 7 days a week when expeditions in the field
- ▲ Linked with international search and rescue
- ▲ Full travel & medical insurance for each student and teacher, including repatriation
- ▲ 24hr Remote Medical Support (on-call doctors)



Leader team with international comms



24/7 Operations Room: UK



International Search and Rescue



In-country Agent



Insurance incident management team, including repatriation

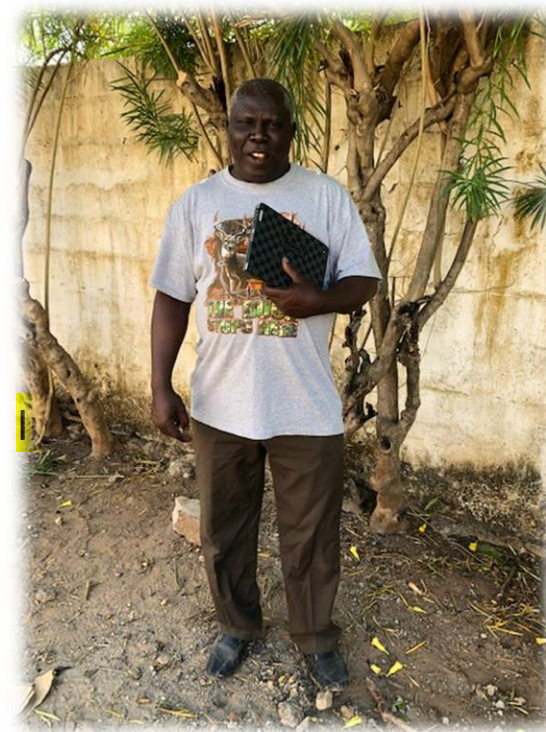
SAFETY: THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

- ▲ **Two** fully qualified and experienced Venture Force Leaders
 - ▲ Carefully selected based on their qualifications, references, our knowledge of them as a person, and their ability to manage safety on an expedition
 - ▲ All leaders have outdoor first aid + mountain leader qualifications
 - ▲ Selected based on who would fit the team best
- ▲ **Two** school leader places, who will be responsible for the pastoral care of the students
- ▲ International communications package
 - ▲ In-country mobiles and Satellite Phones
 - ▲ Personal Locator Beacon (PLB)
 - ▲ Experienced and trusted in-country team

IN COUNTRY AGENT

Efficient relationship with in-country agent

- ✓ **Bouba Touray**
- ✓ Itinerary prepared in conjunction with agent
- ✓ Full in-country support package
- ✓ 24 Hrs in-country support and advice
- ✓ Local solutions to local problems



PLANNING & PREPARATION

EXPEDITION PREPARATION

Pre-presentation

- ▲ Building relationship with in-country agent
- ▲ Checking licences and accreditations of in-country agent + providers
- ▲ Itinerary research + planning
- ▲ Liaison with school regarding itineraries
- ▲ Budgeting
- ▲ Travel safety – FCO, WHO
- ▲ Risk assessments + safety planning

Medical Provision & Preparation:

- ▲ Medical screening + insurance
- ▲ Screening by VF doctor
- ▲ Individual medical management plan
- ▲ First aid & medical pack

British Standard 8848

- ▲ 48 page document which we must comply with

Leader Selection + Training

- ▲ Leader training events
- ▲ Qualification + competence checks
- ▲ Itinerary validation
- ▲ Risk Assessment planning & hand-over
- ▲ Individual medical plan hand-over

In-country Agent

- ▲ Activity Assessment
- ▲ Safety Equipment Assessment
- ▲ Evacuation & Repatriation Planning

EXPEDITION PREPARATION

Safety

- ▲ Risk Assessments written + reviewed by experienced outdoor professionals
- ▲ Risk Assessments validated by technical advisers
- ▲ Checking of in-country provider safety/processes + licencing
- ▲ FCO + WHO Travel safety
- ▲ Processes and policies checked by external bodies e.g. EPA

Equipment

- ▲ Communications Kit including Emergency Communications equipment
- ▲ Safety Equipment
- ▲ Medical Kits
- ▲ Group Kit
- ▲ Kit list preparation

Emergency Management System

- ▲ Hospitals
- ▲ Local surgeries
- ▲ Pharmacies
- ▲ Embassy Liaison
- ▲ Police Stations
- ▲ Evacuation plans
- ▲ Emergency 24 hr Operations Room
- ▲ 24hr on call doctor team (RMS)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS – VACCINATIONS

- Entry requirements are subject to change
- Vaccinations can be an entry requirement to many destinations (not just COVID vaccinations)
 - Currently the covid vaccination is a requirement for entry to Guatemala for anyone over 12 years of age
- Venture Force monitors entry requirements and will endeavour to keep clients informed of any changes but it remains the responsibility of each client to ensure that they meet the entry requirements of the country(ies) to be visited

PAYMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

EXPEDITION COSTS

Expedition Cost: £2,750

INCLUSIONS

- | | |
|--|--|
| • International flights | • All in-country activities and travel |
| • Two Venture Force Expedition Leaders | • All in-country food and accommodation |
| • Two school leaders | • Team t-shirts |
| • 24/7 Operations Room support | • Heavy duty travel bag |
| • Comprehensive travel & medical insurance | • Group kit where necessary |
| • International communications package | • Online expedition portal page |
| • Conservation project including donation | • In-country agent support and tips |
| • In-country agent support | • Carbon off-setting of flights |
| • Sponsored rock climbing event | • Any pre/post travel medical testing requirements |

EXCLUSIONS

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Personal Vaccinations | • Passport renewals |
| • Personal equipment (kit list will be provided) | • Spending money for gifts and additional drinks/food |
| • UK based transport | • Visas (if applicable) |
| • Any pre/post travel medical testing requirements | |

TEAM & SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

- ▲ **Community Projects** Sponsored by supporting companies
- ▲ **Team Fundraising Events** Full team participation required
- ▲ **Easy Fundraising** Families, full school (staff, students, families) and community
- ▲ **Individual Fundraising** Students (where possible) Venture Force Advice package, sponsored rock climbing and cycling
- ▲ **Grants and donations** Student supported applications



FUNDRAISING PACK

FUNDRAISING BOOKLET

Check out our handy fundraising booklet below which is packed with ideas and advice to get you started.

FUNDRAISING
BOOKLET

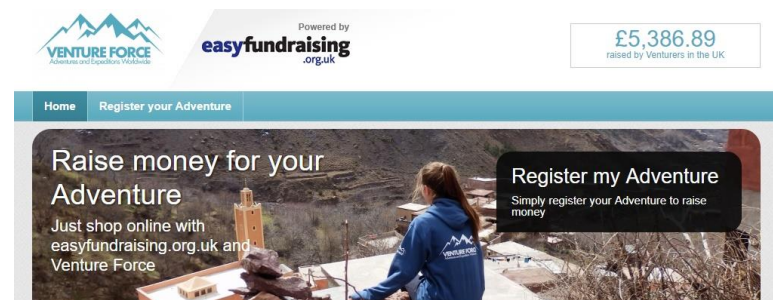
SUPPORT
LETTER

FUNDRAISING
PLAN

SPONSORSHIP
FORM

Available
on your
expedition
portal





- ▲ Since launching our partnership. Students have raised almost £5,400 towards their expeditions
- ▲ Your child can sign up as a Venture Force 'cause' through our special link (available on your portal page)
- ▲ You, your friends, aunt and uncle, grandparents sign up and select you as a cause and away you go. They shop online, you get some money! EASY!
- ▲ Over 5100 shops and sites including Argos, Tesco, Boots, Sky, eBay, John Lewis.....
- ▲ As well as raising money while you shop, you can also raise donations via your Easyfundraising profile page



ONLINE PORTAL PAGE: DOCUMENTS

Important information about your expedition:

- ▲ Expedition forms to complete
- ▲ Draft Itinerary
- ▲ Kit List
- ▲ Vaccination advice
- ▲ Risk Summary Document
- ▲ Project Background and fundraising Information
- ▲ Travel Insurance
- ▲ ATOL Certificate
- ▲ Travel Safety Documents
- ▲ Leader Profiles (coming soon)
- ▲ Flight details (coming soon)



SCHOOL PROCESS

Team Selection:

- Students to return sign up slip by **24th June 2022**
- Decision on team made by schools
- Schools will contact selected team members to advise when to pay the deposit.
- Once the school have made the deposit payment to VF and officially book, Venture Force will send the **‘Welcome Email’** to the selected team members

PAYMENT STEPS

All payments made directly to the school

Deposit Payment:

- Amount as advised by the school
- Due by 15th July

EXPEDITION CONFIRMATION NOTICE

▲ Expedition Confirmation Notice:

- ▲ On receipt of the deposit from the school Venture Force issue an **Expedition Confirmation Notice (ECN)**
- ▲ Parents will receive a copy of the **ECN**.
- ▲ You will have a 7 day cooling off period from the date of the **ECN**.

▲ Insurance:

- ▲ Venture Force medical & travel insurance is included as standard on Venture Force expeditions
- ▲ Our insurance has been tailor-made to match the activities provided by Venture Force to provide additional cover and protection for schools and groups
- ▲ The insurance is included as part of the package price. You are welcome to make your own insurance arrangements but we would ask that you check carefully to ensure it meets the requirements of the expedition
- ▲ If your child has a pre-existing health condition, it is important to declare this to Venture Force.

NEXT STEPS

Document Return

- ▲ Use QR code to check website
 - ▲ Complete the 'sign up slip'
 - ▲ Son/Daughter's Name
 - ▲ Email and Mobile Number
-
- ▲ Return to school reception: before **24th June 2022**

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QUESTIONS?



BIG ENOUGH TO COPE, SMALL ENOUGH TO CARE

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