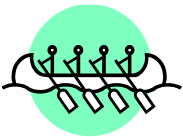




# Orchard Primary & Pre-School

16 April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer



All the children in Year 6 will be taking part in the Pershore Schools Bellboating Regatta on Thursday 25 June 2026. The children will also be taking part in a practice session on Friday 19 June 2026.

The bell-boat is a twin-hulled, stable craft with up to 12 people in a crew, who are seated and propel the boat with single-bladed paddles. All the crew will be wearing buoyancy aids. The focus is on working as a team.

On both days, the children will need to:

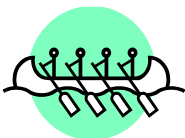
- (a) Wear clothing suitable for the weather. Plenty of layers work well (t-shirt, sweat-top, fleece, joggers or tracksuit) to allow for changes in temperature throughout the day. **Jeans are not suitable.**
- (b) Bring suntan lotion and a sun-hat if the weather is warm.
- (c) Bring spare clothes and a towel in one bag.
- (d) Wear trainers or sturdy shoes. Children should not wear wellies - they are unsuitable near deeper water.
- (e) Bring a separate bag (to be taken on the boat) containing a substantial morning snack, packed lunch, plenty to drink and waterproofs.

**Please also take note of the precautions contained in the information overleaf.**

Please sign and return the consent form below by Friday 5 June 2026 to confirm your child can take part in this activity.

***Please keep the letter as it contains all the essential guidance and information.***

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**Name of Child:** ..... Year 6

I give permission for my child to take part in the Bellboating session on Friday 19 June 2026 **and** the Regatta on Thursday 25 June 2026.

Signed: ..... (parent/guardian) Date .....

## **SAFETY AND HYGIENE ADVICE**

Paddle-sport on placid water is an enjoyable and safe activity provided buoyancy aids are worn and people are aware of water hygiene. By way of reminder, we'd like to share the following information:

Weil's Disease is a bacterial infection normally believed to be spread by rat urine, though it can also be transmitted by cat, fox and rabbit urine. Transmission is usually through an open wound or abrasion but can also be caused by ingestion of contaminated water.

### ***Symptoms***

The most common symptoms are lethargy, diarrhoea, headaches, vomiting, a high temperature, muscle and joint pain, sometimes referred to as flu like symptoms.

### ***Notify Doctor***

Be reassured that it is a rare illness but it's wise to be vigilant. Anyone falling ill with the symptoms after fishing, sailing, paddle or other water sports, particularly **within the three weeks following** the activity, **MUST** see a doctor straight away and advise him or her of when and where the activity took place.

### ***Prevention***

To prevent infection, cover scratches and cuts with water-proof plasters AND wash or shower after water-based activities, particularly before eating.

***Further advice can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Leptospirosis/>***