



04 July 2025

Dear Families

This is just a quick email to say thank you for paying the deposit/instalments towards your child's place on our San Francisco trip departing UK on Friday 20 February 2026 and returning on Tuesday 24 February 2026.

Itinerary planning is fully on the way and it is looking very exciting!

As you may be aware there is some admin that needs to take place in order to travel to the US, please read the requirements below, it is very important that an ESTA or VISA is applied for asap to ensure entry to the US.

Passports

It is important we receive a scan of all passenger passports no later than 120 days prior to departure. In your case, this is Friday 03 October 2025, please ensure we receive them in good time to assist with the planning of your tour. Further information regarding this will be sent in due course.

Passport Validity and Entry Requirements

Passports must meet the validity requirements of the destination country. Individual participants (or their parents) must ensure that their travel documents are compliant. For tours to the USA, passports must meet the following criteria:

Your passport must be:

- Valid for the length of your planned stay.
- To enter or transit through the US, you must have either an Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) visa waiver or a visa.

If any participant's passport does not meet these requirements or is going to expire before travel, it is essential that renewal is initiated as soon as possible to ensure that delays in this process do not result in missing the tour. Our standard cancellation penalties will apply in circumstances where an individual participant does not have valid travel documentation and is thus unable to travel.

Applying for an ESTA visa waiver

[Apply for an ESTA visa waiver](#) through US Customs and Border Protection. You can also apply using the [ESTA Mobile app on android](#) or [on iOS](#).

You cannot apply for an ESTA visa waiver if you have:

- been arrested (even if the arrest did not result in a criminal conviction)
- a criminal record
- been refused admission into, or have been deported from the US
- previously overstayed under an ESTA visa waiver

You cannot normally apply for an ESTA visa waiver if you were in the following countries on or after March 2011:

- Iran
- Iraq
- Libya
- North Korea
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Syria
- Yemen

You cannot apply for an ESTA visa waiver if you travelled to or were in Cuba on or after 12 January 2021. If you are not eligible for an ESTA, you must instead apply for a US visa.

The details on the ESTA must match the passport the passenger is travelling on. If a passport has been renewed it is important to ensure a new ESTA application is submitted. If the ESTA is incorrect a new one will need to be applied for at the airport, there is then risk of the application not being approved in time.

Overseas Students and Visa Requirements

You must review at the earliest opportunity whether your group will have any overseas students or any participants not travelling on UK passports. Some common nationalities such as, but not limited to, Chinese, Russian, or Indian are likely to require visas for the destination country and the application process could be lengthy and onerous. For example, it may not be possible for overseas students to obtain the necessary visa in the UK and the application process may have to be conducted in the student's home country. It may also be necessary for the student's parents or guardian to accompany them to the visa application centre. For the avoidance of doubt, temporary UK residency status, which overseas students may have, does not negate any visa requirements. Please also note that the British Council "List of Travellers" Scheme is no longer available.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions ebenjamin@sackvilleschool.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Ms Benjamin
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