

Wednesday 2 October 2024

Dear parents

Re. Swimming for Year 3 and Year 4 Spring 2025

I am delighted to inform you that swimming lessons will take place for Year 3 and Year 4 in **Spring 2025**. As previously mentioned, we will be installing a temporary pop-up swimming pool on the school grounds. While this was initially planned for the next academic year, the company managing the pool installation has informed us of a cancellation, allowing us to secure the pool for Spring 2025.

As you may be aware, pupils should be taught to swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres, use a range of strokes effectively [for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke] and perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations by the time they leave Year 6.

Most schools offer swimming lessons during either lower or upper Key Stage 2. We have decided to offer this opportunity to children in Year 3 and Year 4. The pool will be conveniently located on the lower playground. Below, you'll find images of an example of a pop-up swimming pool and pop-up changing tents the children will use (which will be located in the Learning Zones by the year 4 classrooms, near the lockers).



Each child will receive 10 swimming sessions, each lasting 30 minutes, over a period of 6 weeks. After half term, we will provide you with further details, including the specific dates and times for your child's swimming slot, what they will need to bring, and a consent form to complete.

We are also pleased to offer additional sessions for non-swimmers in Year 5 and Year 6, as well as selected children with special educational needs (SEN) from across the school.

There are several advantages to having our own on-site pool. It is much more convenient for the children and ensures consistent swimming lessons, something we have struggled with in the past due to transport issues when travelling to Arnos Pool as well as last minute cancellations. By having the pool on-site, we can also offer better support, with small groups of 10 children per class, grouped according to their swimming ability with children being in the pool for longer which will hopefully mean more progress. The lessons will be led by a qualified swimming instructor, with a lifeguard on duty, ensuring a high-quality and safe experience for the children.

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In addition, we are excited to offer swimming as part of an enrichment club during the Spring term.

As you can imagine, there are significant setup costs involved in providing the necessary infrastructure, including cables and sockets for the pool. To help fund this project, we will be organising a sponsored walk next half term. The goal is to raise enough funds to establish the swimming pool for 6 weeks every two years, benefiting Year 3 and Year 4, non-swimmers in Year 5 and Year 6, and selected SEN children.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to sharing more information after half term.

Kind regards

Tijen Hassan

Headteacher