



Tuesday 3 September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

### Swimming Update

I do hope you have all had a great summer break and are now preparing for your children's return to school tomorrow - Wednesday 4 September.

You will recall that I sent a letter to you on 22 July informing you of our new on site arrangements for swimming for this academic year.

Unfortunately, I was informed last week, while on holiday that due to circumstances beyond our control the arrangements we had put in place will need to change in as much as whilst the swimming lessons for Years 1-6 inclusive will still proceed during the school day there **will be no before or after school swimming provision**. I appreciate that some of you have already paid for the out of school sessions and these monies will therefore be refunded to shortly.

The onsite covered swimming pool is being set up this week on the small playground and swimming lessons will commence the following week on Monday 9 September.

As a reminder and as explained in my previous letter, under the National Curriculum it is a requirement for all schools to take the following steps:

*'.....provide swimming instruction either in Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2. In particular, 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]*
- *perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations'*

All children have participated in this in previous years and parents supported this very important life skill. Historically, all our families have paid, as they have valued the importance of the life skill in swimming. Swimming instruction has always been a costed service to parents, even though it is a statutory requirement of the National Curriculum. Schools are not funded to provide this service.

The benefits of our proceeding with this scheme are many not least:

- ✓ Years 1-6 children will have one week of concentrated lessons (5 x 1 hour lessons) as opposed to 12 weeks of 30 minute sessions. The swimming sessions will be more bespoke to the needs of individuals/groups.
- ✓ Children will be in small classes of 12 with 2 qualified instructors in the pool with them i.e. an adult:pupil ratio of 1:6. (Everyone Active provided a ratio of 1:10, which changed depending on their ability with some groups being 1:17).
- ✓ Children will have more curriculum time as they will not have to walk to Everyone Active. Previously children were out of school for 12 weeks from 9.45am-midday for one 30 minute session. **Children will now be gaining over a week's worth of curriculum time.**

All Year 1-Year 6 pupils will take part in this offer. The cost of 5x1 hour lessons will be **£60 per child**. If you hold a Dacorum discount card or if you are eligible for Pupil Premium funding then the voluntary contribution is reduced to £12 per child. **Please make your payment via your Arbor app by Friday 6 September. You will locate this activity under the 'trips' tab.** As always, this amount will be a voluntary contribution. If you have any issues with payment please do get in touch with me. I would kindly urge you to organise your payment as soon as possible.

The timetable for swimming lessons during the school day will be as follows:

<b>Week 1 – w/c 9.9.24</b>	<b>Week 2 – w/c 16.9.24</b>	<b>Week 3 – w/c 23.9.24</b>
Year 4	Year 3	Year 6 – life saving
Year 5	Year 2	Year 1

**We have swapped the year groups in w/c 16.9.24 and w/c 23.9.24, from morning to afternoons so that children in Year 2 and Year 1 do not miss their phonic teaching sessions which takes place every morning.**

Your children will need to bring in a swimming costume and towel plus swimming hat (every child needs to wear a swimming hat) every day for their allocated week and we would suggest a plastic bag for their wet costume etc. Children will also need a pair of flip flops or sliders so once changed they can walk from the library to the swimming pool in the small playground. Swimming goggles are permitted but will not be provided. The library will be converted into a changing area for boys and girls, with screens for privacy.

I am looking forward to seeing you all tomorrow. Please do not hesitate to get in contact if you have any questions.

Regards

**Katharine Ellwood**  
**Headteacher**

