



19<sup>th</sup> July 2017

## Swimming lessons for Year 4 in the Autumn Term

Dear Parents

We are writing to let you know that swimming next year will be organised differently; there will be a 12 week block of swimming for Year 4 in the Autumn term. This will begin on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September and the last session will be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. There will be a further 10 week block for your child in Year 5. We hope this will give pupils a better chance to develop their swimming skills successfully.

There are a few reasons for this decision;

- Swimming is an essential life skill that all children need to learn; it is also part of the PE National Curriculum. During the term that swimming takes place, there will not be an outdoor learning walk.
- Having a longer block of lessons should enable a greater development of skills which can then be consolidated in Year 5, when there will be a 10 week block of lessons in the Summer term.
- Prior knowledge of planned swimming dates should help those families who have swimming lessons out of school to decide whether to cancel them.
- The lessons start two weeks after the start of term. We aim to collect contributions before the sessions begin to ensure we have sufficient to continue and, consequently, do not have to cancel lessons part way through.
- We are giving plenty of notice so that budgeting decisions can be made.

We are occasionally asked by parents why their child should go swimming when they can already swim. It is important to consider the social and emotional development attached to swimming with school; a greater independence is expected and the children are mixing with children of their own age. Swimming can be a real boost to self-esteem for those children who struggle academically but are very able at sports. There are no other areas of the curriculum where we impose a ceiling on children's learning; every pupil needs to be given the chance to fulfil their potential and become the best they can. For those children who can already swim, the lessons are structured so that they have specific tuition to help them build up stamina and improve technique.

The Governing Body has taken the decision to ask parents of children swimming for a voluntary contribution of £3.50 each session. This is primarily used to cover the costs of transport to the swimming pool and represents good value for money for a 30 minute lesson in a small group. Schools have a relatively small amount of money and have large demands on their budget. The majority of the school budget is used for staffing costs and learning resources. The Governors at Sutton CP are keen to provide our children with lots of opportunities to extend and enhance their learning and the school budget simply does not stretch to all of these. Along with Governors from other local primary schools, we have decided to ask for voluntary contributions – in this way we can make our money go further. Regardless of the size of your child's class, the voluntary contribution requested is the same across Key Stage 2 (overall school makes no profit from organizing swimming lessons - \*see below). No child will be excluded from an activity during the school day if a parent is unwilling or unable to pay. However, if insufficient contributions are received, swimming lessons may have to be cancelled.



## Sutton in Craven Community Primary School

In order to assist with budgeting, a ParentPay service will be available which you can pay into at any time between now and the Monday before swimming starts (Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September).

The cost of the 12 lessons will be £42.00 and we would ask that parents have contributed a minimum of £21.00 before lessons start, with the balance payable after this.

We will send a further letter home at the start of next term with details of what your child will need for swimming.

We hope that this new schedule will prove to be successful and that all children will be able to benefit from swimming lessons with the school. If you have any further queries, please contact school.

Kind regards

*Costings	Number of children: 31	Cost per head per lesson
Entrance	£23.25	£0.75
Transport	£83.00	£2.68
Insurance	£ 8.37	£0.27
Swimming teachers	£17.70	£0.57
Total	£132.32	£4.27
<b>*Minimum voluntary contribution across KS2</b>		<b>*£3.50</b>

Jill Fletcher

Deputy Headteacher