



6th March 2018

Swimming lessons for Year 5 in the Summer Term

Dear Parents

We are writing to let you know how swimming is being organised this year. There will be a 9 week block of swimming lessons for Year 5 in the Summer term which will begin on **Wednesday 2nd May**; the last session will be on Wednesday 11th July. We hope this will give pupils a better chance to develop their swimming skills successfully. There are a few reasons for this arrangement which worked well last year;

- Swimming is an essential life skill that all children need to learn, it is also part of the PE National Curriculum.
- Having a block of lessons should enable a greater development of skills. We have found this to be the case with the Year 4 children who attended in the Autumn term.
- Knowing the term in which lessons are taking place should help those families who have swimming lessons out of school to decide whether to cancel those for a term.
- 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 are not in the position of having to cancel lessons part way through the block.
- We are giving plenty of notice so that budgeting decisions can be made.
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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 increase the quality of their 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 cost 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 over**). 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 facility will be opened which you can pay into at any time between now and the Monday before swimming starts - Monday 30th April.

The total cost of the 9 lessons will be £31.50 and we would ask that parents have made a contribution for at least the first 5 (£17.50) before Monday 30th April, with the balance of £14.00 payable after this.

There will be a further letter at the start of next term with further details of what is needed for the swimming lessons.

We hope that this schedule for swimming gives the lessons a greater chance of taking place and that all children will then be able to experience the benefits of swimming lessons with the school. If you have any further queries about swimming please contact school.

Kind regards

Jill Fletcher

Deputy Headteacher

*Costings	Number of children: 32	Cost per head per lesson
Entrance	£24.00	£0.75
Transport	£83.00	£2.59
Insurance	£ 8.64	£0.27
Swimming teachers	£17.70	£0.55
Total	£133.34	£4.16
*Minimum voluntary contribution across KS2		*£3.50

Note: There will be no lessons on Wednesday 30th May (half-term) or Wednesday 27th June (Y5 event at South Craven School)