



All Saints Primary School Swimming

April 2017

Dear Parents & Carers,

SWIMMING 2017



The half term holidays will soon be upon us and so the time has come to contact you about our swimming this year. We would love every child to swim every day within our school, starting on **Tuesday 6th June 2017** and finishing on **Wednesday 19th July 2017**. We truly believe at All Saints that it's essential that every child learns to swim, especially to be water-safe. We believe that we should introduce our children to swimming early on so that they have the skill for their whole lives. This can help improve their overall physical and mental health too.

Voluntary Contribution

Mr Parker gave us his own time and volunteered his expertise to ensure that all the children had a new pool to swim in, last academic year. School budgets are currently in the news and cuts have to be made. Due to Mr Parker's generosity we have managed to retain our pool but can I please remind you that the School budget is not able to be used to run and maintain the pool. Please support ASSA's fundraising events as it is this group of dedicated people who are ensuring the pool's future. This year the school will require a low contribution of **£25 per child** for the season. This will enable each child to swim daily (volunteer support permitting) for 20 – 30 minutes for at least 6 weeks. This year the children will receive awards for their progress. We request please that your voluntary contribution is handed in to your child's **class teacher** by **Friday 19th May 2017** in a sealed envelope with your child's name on the front, marked 'swimming'. If you are writing a cheque, please make this payable to ASSA (All Saints School Association).

Volunteers Required

We hope you agree that this is an amazing opportunity; however we cannot provide it without the support of additional adults. We will require volunteers to support the lessons poolside, to ensure adequate supervision. School staff members are required to supervise changing and the remainder of the children in the class as most classes will be taught in half class groups. If you could offer some time as a regular commitment during the swimming season please **contact the school office or staff members on the door as soon as possible**.

What will a volunteer have to do?

- Attend poolside training on Wednesday 24th May from 4-6pm.
- Be able to stand poolside and provide an extra pair of eyes whilst the teacher is taking the lesson. (The volunteer is a supporting role and follows the advice of the teacher at all times.)
 1. Collect the swimming pool box from the office and the swimming keys.
 2. Support the children into the pool safely.

3. Check the children in the pool to monitor that they are above water level and safe
 4. Lock the swimming gate and return the box to the school office at the end of the session
- Come rain or shine we will be out so make sure you have a rain coat/umbrella and a sunhat/sun cream!
 - Be 18 years or above (grandparents and other family members can be volunteers!)

Celebrating Success

Did you know that a third of children in England cannot swim by the time they leave primary school? New for this academic year is our link with ASA. The Department for Education said schools must provide lessons and pupils must be taught to swim 25 meters unaided. The Government expects all pupils to meet this benchmark as part of the national curriculum before they leave primary school. To ensure 100% of our children meet this target we will be using these passports to target children and track their progress. If you would like to know, at any time, how your child is progressing in their swimming learning, please ask their class teacher who will happily share their passport with you. There are eight School Swimming Awards acting as incentives, rewarding and recognising achievement. They will be available to all our children and can be sewn on their towels, swimming costumes or displayed at home😊. These will be awarded in our Achievement Assemblies on Fridays.



Items

What your child will need in school EVERY DAY after half term:

- ◆ **A one piece swimming costume or swimming trunks**
- ◆ **Swim hat (Swimming hats MUST be worn by both boys and girls)**
- ◆ **A towel**
- ◆ **A pair of flip flops**
- ◆ **A waterproof plastic bag in which to carry this kit**

**Children who cannot yet swim will be provided with armbands.
Please ensure that all kit and items of clothing are clearly named.**

Goggles

Swimming goggles SHOULD NOT be worn for school swimming by children in Reception, Years 1, 2, 3 and 4. Children are normally in the pool for a short period of time and we check the chlorine levels daily to ensure good water quality. Goggles can often distract children from the lesson. Also, it is essential that children become confident to put their faces underwater without them. Stronger swimmers in Years 5 and 6 can be expected to practise more sustained swimming as part of their lesson and goggles may be worn by these children if they wish. However, they are not an essential item and most children will not need them. The school cannot be responsible if goggles get damaged or lost. **If your child has a medical condition and needs to wear goggles or ear plugs, please put this in writing to Mrs Regan or contact her directly.**

Many thanks for taking the time to read this letter. If you do have any queries please do not hesitate to ask Mrs Crumpler or Mrs Regan. Unfortunately, unless families contribute time (volunteers for poolside) and financially to the pool's running costs, we will be unable to operate it. This would be a complete travesty having invested several thousand pounds to build the new pool last academic year. Your support is therefore essential. We know how highly parents and carers prize swimming at All Saints and we look forward to your support.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Regan