



Wednesday 14th July 2021

Year 5 Swimming Lessons

Dear Parents/Carers,

As part of the PE National Curriculum, your child will have the opportunity to receive intensive swimming lessons in Year 5, during the Summer term (April 2022). We are really looking forward to resuming our swimming lessons at Littledown Leisure Centre for all children in Year 5 and it is always a popular and memorable part of the year.

Swimming is an important element of Physical Education within all schools and as a result it is compulsory for all children to attend. The National Curriculum states children should be able to swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres. They must also be able to use a range of strokes effectively and perform a safe self-rescue in different water-based situations. Furthermore, swimming is a key life skill which we hope will keep our learners safe near the water as well as promoting a good physical and mental wellbeing.

As with all our PE lessons, swimming will be differentiated to ensure all children receive the most effective swimming lessons and help them to progress from any stage. Nearer the time, we will provide you with a questionnaire so you can inform us on your child's swimming ability. We have booked out two lanes of the swimming pool to ensure there is enough room for those who are less confident in the shallower end and for those more confident swimmers, lessons will occur across the pool. Your child must still attend the lessons even if they are already successful in the criteria above. Experienced swimmers will be part of an advanced group where the focus will be on technique, speed, additional problem solving skills within the water as well as further water safety strategies.

Following the Government guidelines along with the guidelines published by Swim England about returning to the pool, we have carefully assessed the situation and have deemed it safe to resume our swimming lessons. We will of course continue to monitor and assess the safety of attending swimming lessons throughout the year and we will continue to have detailed contact with Littledown Leisure Centre to ensure all procedures set out by the Government and Littledown are maintained to keep our learners and staff safe.

Dates of swimming lessons:

Swimming lessons will be held weekly and will commence on Monday 25th April 2022 with the last session on Monday 11th July 2022. Please note that lessons will not take place on 2nd May and 30th May due to the Bank Holiday and May Half term holiday, respectively.

Each session will be taught by qualified instructors at Littledown Leisure Centre and Jewell Academy staff will supervise for the entire time when off the school premises. We will be walking to the leisure centre from school as a class and nearer the time we will send you a full list of items for your child to bring each week. The total cost of all sessions will be £31. Although swimming is not happening until next Summer, we wanted to give parents/carers as much notice as possible of the cost and to let you know payments be paid in full on Parentpay or in installments from today.

Swimming is always a popular part of our year and all children make excellent progress within each session. If your child is less confident in the water or has never been to Littledown swimming pool, it may be beneficial to take your child swimming over the summer holidays to get them used to the pool. We will be changing in the two group changing rooms (this will be for Jewell children only) and we will be swimming in the two lanes nearest the seating area.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Vickery

PE Lead and Swimming Coordinator