

13th September 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

SWIMMING INFORMATION 2021/2022 - Year 5 Children Only

Swimming lessons start on **WEDNESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2021 (2.00pm – 2.30pm)** at Burntwood Leisure Centre. Children will travel by coach to and from the leisure centre. This is an important part of the curriculum; please help the school and your children by following the regulations:

- Due to Health & Safety ruling, the use of swimming goggles for school lessons can no longer take place unless there is a medical reason. If your child has a medical reason for using goggles, this must be sent to school in writing before they can wear them for swimming. Please see the guidelines as attached.
- Although children do not need to wear a swimming hat for lessons, they have asked parents to make sure children have enough bobbles, slides, clips, etc with them (boys and girls) so that hair is completely tied back and cannot fall on their faces.
- All children will start off swimming in the ‘small pool’. This is due to the fact that we do not have enough competent swimmers and Burntwood staff will not split the children; they all have to be in one pool for supervision issues.

Swimming Timetable:

Autumn Term	Wednesday 15 th September 2021 – Wednesday 20 th October 2021 (6 weeks) Wednesday 3 rd November 2021 - Wednesday 8 th December 2021 (6 weeks)
Spring Term	Wednesday 5 th January 2022 – Wednesday 16 th February 2022 (7 weeks) Wednesday 2 nd March 2022 – Wednesday 30 th March 2022 (5 weeks)
Summer Term	Wednesday 27 th April 2022 – Wednesday 25 th May 2022 (5 weeks) Wednesday 8 th June 2022 – Wednesday 13 th July 2022 (6 weeks)

Only a parental note, with proper reason, is acceptable to excuse children from swimming as it is part of the National Curriculum. Please help your child by getting them into the habit of bringing their swimming kit every Wednesday and by being positive about the benefits of learning to swim.

Yours faithfully

Mrs N Silvester-Grant

Head Teacher

Swimming Services Policy guidelines for the use of swimming goggles in lessons delivered by Swimming Services.

1. Goggles are not necessary within short curriculum swimming lessons (typically 20 to 25 minutes water time) or for single, short races in school galas
2. Goggles are intended for use in long, regular swimming sessions when: a. the eyes would be exposed for long periods to the effects of the chemicals in the water b. the tissue around the eyes does not dry out between training sessions and thus becomes more susceptible to infection
3. For reasons of Safe Practice in Sport, it is recommended that the use of goggles should not be allowed unless a school is satisfied that a pupil has 'exceptional circumstances' – ie, through involvement in long and frequent training sessions, outside school hours, or if the individual has particularly sensitive eyes, or for some other exceptional circumstance.
4. Wet plastic can be slippery and, frequent, incorrect or unnecessary adjustment or removal of goggles, such as pulling them away from the eyes instead of sliding them over the forehead, could cause an eye injury and parents should be made aware of this risk.
5. In crowded water space there is an increased likelihood of accidental collision that may lead to eye injury by those wearing goggles.
6. When large numbers of pupils complain of eye irritation it is likely to be a chemical imbalance which can be easily rectified.
7. In the rare circumstances where the use of goggles are allowed in a school the adult responsible for the group has the right to require the pupil to remove them for reasons of safe practice if a pupil uses them inappropriately.
8. It is a parents' responsibility to ensure their child is able to safely apply and remove the goggles.
9. Certain elements of our Award Scheme do require pupils to remove their goggles.
10. A medical certificate is not essential for a school to allow a pupil to use goggles. However, schools do, as a minimum, require a letter from a parent/carer stating the pupil's 'exceptional circumstances' to enable a school to consider a request for their child to use goggles during a school swimming activity. The letter should then be kept on file in school.
11. Please note - it is important that all parents of children who swim under the care of a school have access to these guidance notes prior to commencing a swimming activity. This will ensure that parents are aware of the current Safe Practice in Sport guidelines that are referred to in this document concerning the use of goggles.