



Armathwaite School
ARMATHWAITE
Cumbria
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Headteacher: Mrs Helen Hepworth

28-6-19

Dear Parents/Carers,

Swimming Lessons

Once again it's time for our annual swimming lessons at Lazonby Pool. This year lessons will begin on Monday July 1st and take place every afternoon (Monday to Friday) until Friday July 12th ~ 2 weeks in total. We will use the train to travel to and from Lazonby each day. Train times have changed this year and the new timetable means we will have to catch the 11.04am train each day, returning on the 3.34pm, arriving at Armathwaite at 3.41pm

Below please find details of how we will organise the swimming and things we need you to do to help with this.

Information about the swimming lessons

Our swimming teacher is Claire Spruce. Claire is a qualified swimming teacher. She will teach the children in small groups according to ability. We have organised initial groups based on last year's lessons and will place Reception and new children into groups after the first lesson.

Swimming lessons for younger children and less confident swimmers will last 20 minutes. I will be in the water supporting children for these sessions.

Lessons for more confident swimmers will last 25 to 30 minutes.

Staff and Helpers

Our staff are accompanying the children and we have already got some volunteers to help but if you have a day or a few days free and can help with the whole trip including the train journey, please let us know. For safeguarding reasons members of staff will be responsible for helping children change and get dressed after lessons.

Should the weather be particularly bad we will postpone or cancel lessons.

If you have any questions please ask when you see us, or ring/email.

Outdoor learning

Swimming lessons will be a small part of our days out at Lazonby and we have lots of purposeful learning planned, too! Once again we will make use of the fantastic play area next to the pool for playtimes. All children need their book bags EVERY DAY, as we will be reading each day.



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Older children will be involved in a range of outdoor maths learning challenges and problem solving, such as measuring time and distances, including perimeters. Year 6 children will miss one session during the first week due to secondary school transition days. Unfortunately this was unavoidable. There are just too many things to fit in! Sorry.

As well as reading and doing phonic activities younger children will be doing practise maths and learning about shape, measurement and symmetry. It will be exciting to be able to all share this experience and we are very much looking forward to it.

Clothing

Children will need warm and waterproof clothing if the weather is cooler and a sun hat and sun cream if the weather is hot and sunny. They will need to wear trainers or sensible shoes for walking and using the play area next to the pool. Please put your child's named costume and towel in a named back pack or bag. If your child needs arm bands and has some please could you make sure they are named and send them each day. We have spares should they need to borrow some.

Snack

We will be taking hot chocolate, milk and water with us and will serve this with toast and fruit so that children can have something to eat and drink when they have finished their swimming lesson.

Sharing

There will be no sharing whilst we are busy with swimming lessons.

Lunch

Due to the new train times we will take a packed lunch with us each day. These can be ordered on School Lunch Shop and will be prepared each morning by Anne, our school cook, with assistance from Kath, our lunch time supervisor. We will then take them with us and have a picnic lunch before our lessons begin at 12.10am each day.

Breakfast and after school clubs will continue as usual.

Costs

School and our fantastic PTFA are heavily subsidising the cost of the swimming teacher, the hire of Lazonby Pool with a life guard and the travel.

Just a reminder that we have also asked you for a voluntary contribution towards train travel.

The total voluntary contribution per child is £14.50, with payment in whole or £7.25 per week if this helps. We are aware that this is an expense for families and with this in mind have managed to reduce the cost by £2 this year (it was £20 in 2017 and £16 last year). School budgets have been reduced significantly and we really appreciate your support as this means we can continue to provide rich, important and exciting learning opportunities for all our children.

Dropping Off and Collecting Children

Children need to come to school as usual with their swimming bag containing all they will need for the day. We will have early fruit and milk before walking down to the station to catch the 11.04am train.



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In the afternoon we will return to the Armathwaite at 3.40pm. Pam, our bus driver will wait for the bus children up at school, so please be aware when waiting to collect them that they may be a few minutes late getting off the bus. If possible we would be grateful if people collecting children would wait for them in the school playground as usual. We will be back for 3.45pm. If you need to be somewhere quickly after school please see me so I can arrange for you to collect your child from the station.

Hopefully, this wonderful weather will continue.

Yours sincerely,



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