



Armathwaite School
ARMATHWAITE
Cumbria
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Headteacher: Mrs Helen Hepworth

10-5-23

Dear Parents/Carers,

Swimming Lessons

Once again, it's time for our annual swimming lessons at Lazonby Pool. This year lessons will all take place on Mondays, beginning on Monday May 22nd and each Monday after until and including Monday July 17th (but not the half term holiday). We are so excited to be able to use the train to travel to and from Lazonby again! Train times have changed this year and the new timetable means we will have to catch the 11.13am train each day, returning on the 3.35pm, arriving at Armathwaite at 3.43pm. We will walk up from the station and ask that you please collect your child from the usual place in the school playground at 3.50pm.

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 confidence and ability. We have organised initial groups based on last year's lessons and will place Nursery\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 two sessions and other sessions with older children who are still developing independent swimming confidence. These lessons, as those for more confident swimmers will last 30 minutes and we will have 8 swimming lesson slots in total.

Staff and Helpers

All our staff are accompanying the children and we are looking for volunteers to help so our adult: child ratios are in place. 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 all children change and get dressed after lessons, as well as accompanying children to the toilet.

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.



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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 swimming day, as we will be reading each day. 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 who are going to William Howard and Caldew schools will miss one session on Monday July 3rd due to secondary school transition day. Unfortunately, this is 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, symmetry and time. Swimming days are so popular with children, full of adventure and fun. 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 (no open toe sandals please). Please put your child's named costume and towel in a named back pack or bag. If your child has goggles please make sure these are named too (we have permanent markers if you need to borrow one). Children will be carrying their own bags so give them a good one and avoid making it too heavy! 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. If your child has long hair they will need to have their hair tied back for the lessons.

Lunch

Due to the 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 there. All children will have their school water bottles so children **do not** need to bring a drink. They will have enough to carry with their swimming and book bags.

Snack

We will also be taking snack with us so that hungry swimmers can have something to eat and drink when they have finished their swimming lesson.

Sharing

Monday May 15th will be our last sharing in Year Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2, as we will be busy with swimming lessons.

Breakfast and after school clubs will continue as usual.

Costs

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

Alongside this, we need to ask parents for a voluntary contribution towards train travel.

The total voluntary contribution per child is £14 to cover all train travel and we really appreciate your support with this.

Paper copies of this letter have a slip on the reverse of the final page, please kindly return it to school with payment. Thank you



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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 train.

In the afternoon we will return to Armathwaite at 3.43pm. 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. People collecting children need to wait for them in the school playground by the field please, as usual. We will be back for 3.50pm. 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.

Other Dates for Your Diary

We are busy organising summer trips and will let you know once these are confirmed.

Friday May 19th ~ Neil Hudson MP will visit school for a tour and to meet older children for a Q and A session.

Tuesday May 23rd ~ reports home for Year 1 and Year 4 children

Wednesday May 24th ~ parent meetings ~ Year 1 and 4

Reports for children in Year Nursery, Reception, Year 3 and 5 will be sent out next half term.

Thursday May 25th ~ we will be sharing our curriculum, including child-initiated independent learning (planning) at the Small Schools Conference.

Friday May 26th ~ we will have visitors from Flimby School to see our planning afternoon and find out more about child-initiated independent learning and how we organise and deliver our curriculum.

May holiday Monday May 29th to Friday June 2nd.

Wednesday June 14th ~ Whole school photographs and a group Year 6 and Nursery photograph.

Year 6 transition camp at Lazonby will take place on Thursday June 22nd through to Friday June 23rd. More information to follow.

Wednesday June 28th ~ Year 5 science day at Ullswater Community College.

Friday June 30th ~ Year 5 taster day at Caldew School.

Year 6 transition days are on Monday July 3rd for children going to Caldew or William Howard School

Thursday July 6th for children going to Ullswater Community College or QEGS

We are finalising Year 6 leavers assembly and trip at the moment and will let you know these dates very soon.

The last day of the summer term is Wednesday July 19th. We will finish at 2pm.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Hepworth



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