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Head Teacher: Mr T Abbs

13th June 2024

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your patience and understanding over the pool this year. Unfortunately, our recently-trained *Pool Carer/caretaker* left his position due to personal reasons, which meant we couldn't legally open our pool.

We have enlisted the services of S & G Pool Services (an external company) to get the pool ready for us. Part of this arrangement means the pool will only be available for four days. We have also enlisted Mrs Deili's support to teach swimming for these four days. Although this arrangement has come at a significant cost to school budget, we feel it's worth every penny if it means giving our pupils at least one opportunity to swim this year.

Please note: **each swim session is still not guaranteed**. See 'Cancellation of Sessions' section below. Although this scenario would be disappointing, please support the school by managing your own child's disappointment.

Our priority has to be KS2/Year 6, due to the National Curriculum requirements. This is reflected in the offer below:

26 th June	Gold
3 rd July	Riddell
10 th July	Jeffers and Shireen
17 th July	Year 6s: swimming lessons AM; Leavers' Pool Party PM

Curriculum

The ultimate aim of National Curriculum swimming is to teach your child to:

- Perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations (*this can be taught on dry land if the pool cannot be opened on the day*).
- Swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of AT LEAST 25m, by the time they reach the **end of KS2 (Year 6)**
- Use a range of strokes effectively, for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke, by the time they reach the **end of KS2 (Year 6)**

Organisation from Home:

Children will need to bring their **swimming costume, towel, hat and suitable footwear in a named bag**.

If your child has **flip flops, Crocs, sliders** or similar, this is extremely useful, too but non-essential (it helps us poolside with drying feet and keeping school shoes dry – especially for younger pupils).

Suitable/Unsuitable Swimwear.

- Girls: A **one-piece swimming costume (no bikinis)**
- Boys: A pair of **trunks/shorts or swimming suit (no Bermuda or long shorts below the knee, or wetsuits!)**
- All children must have a **swimming hat**. There is a very limited stock of swimming hats available to buy from the school office for £1. Please bring along the correct change.
- **No earrings** – children need to be able to take their own earrings out: **staff cannot do this**. If your child cannot remove their own earrings, you must remove them before coming to school or **they cannot swim**.
- **NO GOGGLES**: if your child has a medical reason to wear them, or is a proficient swimmer of multiple lengths of front crawl, breaststroke, for example, there may be an exception (this is a Local Authority rule). Please

email me with any requests: jnicholls@earith.cambs.sch.uk. If exceptions are made and the goggles present too much of a distraction within the lesson, they will be removed.

Changing:

Children will prepare themselves for the pool in separate changing zones in school and walk over to the pool with their towel. They will dry off pool-side and return to their changing zones to change back into their school uniform.

We expect children to **adhere to our safeguarding rules for doing this, as well as being sensible poolside**. If they do not, this may result in your child not being allowed to return to our pool – at the Head Teacher's discretion.

Please share with your child the importance of **excellent behaviour: pre, during and post poolside**.

Illness

Pupils with contagious infections will not be allowed to enter the water e.g. sickness, impetigo, conjunctivitis, open infected wounds/**fresh cuts**.

NO pupil must enter the poolside if they have had diarrhoea. Any pupil deemed absent in the school due to this illness will be allowed to swim two weeks after the symptoms have gone, if this is in-line with their respective swim session.

This is extremely important for the safe and hygienic running of the pool and if in breach, **the pool would have to be temporarily closed – this impacts the whole school**.

Important: Cancellation of Sessions

Please note: **our offer of swimming sessions across all year groups, each year, still exceeds the requirements of the national curriculum**.

Strict risk assessments have to be followed for the safe, operational running of the pool. Swimming sessions may need to be cancelled due to a range of reasons: those mentioned above (illness; cuts etc); those relating to regulation of the pool e.g. water/chemical balances, or due to disruptive weather (these are examples only).

If sessions in the pool have to be cancelled, **there will be no other option for reconvening these due to strict timetabling in school and staff capacity. In the event of a pool closure, pupils will take part in a dry land lesson** covering aspects of the swimming curriculum that can be taught without the need to be in the pool.

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any further questions or queries, please do contact me directly.
Yours sincerely

Mrs Nicholls
PE Lead