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Head Teacher: Mr T Abbs

May 2025

Dear Parents,

Here at Earith Primary School, we believe that swimming is not only a fantastic sport and form of exercise, but also a vital life skill.

Many of you will be aware that we have not had a caretaker since December and this impacts our ability to open our pool when we would like. In the absence of a caretaker, once again this year, we have worked incredibly hard, thanks to our staff's flexibility; the support of the Active Learning Trust, including funding an external company, to support us to open our pool on the dates detailed on this letter.

National Curriculum: the ultimate aim of primary school swimming is to ensure your child can:

- Perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations (this can be taught on dry land if the pool is unavailable).
- Swim competently, confidently, and proficiently over a distance of **at least 25 metres** by the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6).
- Use a range of strokes effectively, such as front crawl, backstroke, and breaststroke, by the end of Key Stage 2.

We have secured **Mrs Deili, a qualified swimming instructor** with extensive experience, to deliver all swimming lessons this year. **Please put these dates in your diary so you know when it's a swim day**

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June      | Rauf Class   |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June     | Antony Class                                       |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June     | Wenzel Class                                       |
| Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June     | Larwood Class                                      |
| Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July      | Antony Class                                       |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July      | Larwood Class and Year 5s                          |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July     | Wenzel Class                                       |
| <b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b> | <b>Year 6s: swimming lessons AM; Pool Party PM</b> |

### **Organisation from Home**

Please ensure your child brings the following items on their swimming day, in a named bag:

- Swimming costume
- Towel
- Swimming hat
- Suitable footwear (flip flops, Crocs, sliders, etc., are helpful but not essential – especially for younger children to help with drying feet and keeping school shoes dry)

### **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. Swimming hats are no longer available from the school office. Please provide your own.**

*Please refer to our comprehensive Pupil Privacy Notice on our website or hard copy held by the school office which records how we use information about you and what we do with it.*

- **No earrings – children need to be able to take their own earrings out: staff are not permitted to 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 for goggles: [jnicholls@earith.cambs.sch.uk](mailto: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. After swimming, they will dry off poolside and return to their changing zone to get back into 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 swim on their session, or return to our pool this season** – at the Head Teacher's discretion.

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

### **Illness and Pool Hygiene**

For health and safety reasons, the following guidelines must be followed:

Pupils with contagious conditions (e.g. sickness, impetigo, conjunctivitis, open wounds/**fresh cuts**) must **not**

- enter the water.
- **NO pupil must enter the poolside if they have had diarrhoea. Any pupil deemed absent in the school due to this illness will only be allowed to swim two weeks after the symptoms have gone.**

These rules are essential to maintain the safety and hygiene of the pool. Any breach may result in a **full pool closure**, affecting all pupils.

### **Important: Cancellation of Sessions**

Our swimming provision still goes above and beyond the National Curriculum requirements. However, for safety, we must follow strict risk assessments. Swimming sessions may be cancelled for reasons including (but not limited to):

- Illness/injuries (e.g. open wounds, infections)
- Pool regulations (e.g. water chemical balance)
- Severe or unsuitable weather conditions

If sessions in the pool have to be cancelled, **we will not be able to reschedule them 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.

### **Swimming Ability**

Please complete this link to let us know your child's swimming ability: [LINK](#) by **12pm Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2025**. It is really important that you do this so we can carefully consider your child's swimming group.

Thank you in advance for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Nicholls