



Rye Community Primary School & Pugwash Nursery
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7th September 2021

Dear Parents,

We are very pleased to be able to inform you that we will once again be able to offer our year 5 and 6 pupils the opportunity to have swimming lessons at Rye Sports Centre.

Swimming is only a part of the National Curriculum for KS2; with each KS2 child expected to be able to swim 25m by the end of Primary School, year 6.

We want to ensure as many children as possible are able to do this. This is a commitment we want to make as a school, because we feel that water safety is a life skill and particularly required in the area we live. However, we do **rely** on voluntary contributions.

We are trialling allowing year 5 to swim alongside year 6 this term, in the hope that we receive enough parental contributions to cover the cost of this. However, should we not receive enough contributions, the year 5 cohort will not be able to swim next year and as a school we would have to make the hard decision to leave swimming lessons until year 6, each and every year after.

As someone who personally used to teach swimming, for over ten years as part of my role as a Primary Teacher in another school, I know the benefits of children becoming water confident and safe near water as young as possible. It is our intention for ALL children to be able to have the opportunity to learn to swim- right from our youngest EYFS children. However, as stated above, this will simply **not** be possible **unless** we receive enough contributions towards the cost of swimming lessons. In order for swimming lessons to **continue to take place we require £2.73 per session or a total of £30.00 for the 11 sessions. Our preference would be for the £30 payment to be paid before 29th September.** Each swimming lesson must be paid for in advance, even if paying weekly. We are happy to receive instalments of any amount in advance of each weekly swimming lesson.

Any arrears have to be funded by the school at the cost of any other learning resources.

You can pay online via ParentPay (the web based system we currently use to pay for school meals). We hope you will support us in enabling our children to have swimming in every year group.

Our year 5 and 6 classes will be swimming on **Wednesday afternoons between 1.30pm and 3pm for 11 weeks commencing Wednesday 29th September with the final session taking place on 15th December.** These lessons will be led by a qualified swimming instructor.

They will need to bring a swimming costume and towel and hair must be tied back.

I am sure you will understand that we do **rely** upon parental contributions for such activities and I hope you feel that this is something you can support your child with.

If you would like to make an additional contribution to the school to support any individual families who are finding it difficult to make the payment, then please speak to Mrs Suzie James or Mrs Ria Cruttenden in the school office, as we would like as many children to be able to swim as possible.

There will be details available soon from a group of parents who will be starting a PTA, (parent, teacher association) detailing ways in which you can support our school through fundraising efforts to ensure that swimming remains a part of our curriculum offer for all Rye Primary Children.

I am sure as parents and as members of a local seaside community you too understand the need for our children to be water confident.

Best wishes,

Miss K Martin
Head of School