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22nd March 2024

School Swimming Lessons – Year 4

Your child's class will shortly be starting their school swimming lessons – this letter will explain how things will work. Pupils will visit The Hurst Pool for their lessons, a centre that specialises only in swimming. The whole class will attend one 30-minute lesson every week for 10 weeks, every Monday morning. They will be driven there by minibus and receive support from qualified swimming teachers, ensuring that every pupil receives adequate feedback and support.

The cost of each swimming lesson is £3.50 per child, per session, for the 10 week period. The total cost for the term will be £35. To keep the costs to a minimum, we will be using the school minibus which will require us to shuttle the class in two groups. The group arriving first will use the additional time as a chance to read as part of their daily guided reading group with at least one member of staff from Walton Oak School, as well as another staff member or volunteer. We are sure that you understand how important swimming lessons are, especially if your child is not, or has never had, any private swimming lessons outside of school. All payment will be completed through SCOPAY. The £3.50 weekly charge is in fact voluntary but these voluntary donations cover the considerable cost of the exclusive use of Hurst Pool for these lessons and the services of trained swimming instructors for a term.

In the unfortunate event that we do not receive sufficient contributions, we would be in a position to review the established provision that we have in place. If you have any financial difficulties and require any assistance, please contact Natasha Heron-Duke, our HSLW in confidence.

The National Curriculum programme of study for physical education states that by the end of Primary School, every child should be able to:

- Perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations
- Swim competently, confidently, and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
- Use a range of strokes effectively, for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke.

At Walton Oak, it was decided that all children, including those who can competently perform the above skills, should continue with swimming lessons to further develop their swimming skills and water confidence. Given our close proximity to the River Thames, this feels especially important to children in our school community.



Lumen Learning Trust c/o Saxon Primary School, Briar Road, Shepperton TW17 0JB
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Swimming will take place on:

22nd April	29th April	20th May	3rd June	10th June
17th June	24th June	1st July	8th July	15th July

There will be NO SWIMMING ON:

6th May	13th May	27th May
(B/H)	(Year 6 SATS)	(Half Term)

- If your child owns a swimming hat, they may bring it and wear it during their lessons. Otherwise, you will be able to purchase a purple swimming hat (unisex) for £1.50 from the school. Long hair (boys or girls) must be tied up and bows or large hairbands or clips cannot be worn due to the swim hat.
- Your child is encouraged to bring a pair of swimming goggles, a one piece swimsuit or swim shorts (not baggy or oversized shorts), a towel, a hair band and hair brush. There will be no time to dry their hair; however, the swimming cap helps to keep most of their hair dry.
- Pupils are encouraged to bring a bottle of water and a healthy snack (e.g. fresh fruit or veg, not chocolate or crisps) to eat afterwards. We remind you that no jewellery, especially earrings, can be worn by any child whilst swimming. Failure to follow this rule will result in the swimming teacher refusing to allow your child to participate in the lesson.

What we need parents/carers to do:

Please log on to SCOPAY to acknowledge receipt of the letter and pay for the swimming lessons and swimming hat – You will be able to log on and make a one off payment for the term or pay weekly if this is a more suitable option.

If you have any questions about swimming lessons, please contact the school via phone or email and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Griggs and Miss Camamile
Year 4 Teachers