



# LIONEL WALDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



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6<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

## SWIMMING IN KEY STAGE 2

Prior to Covid, our pupils in Key Stage 2 participated in swimming lessons at The Empress Pool in Chatteris on Friday afternoons. Due to restrictions, these lessons had to stop in March 2020. With the Government's drive for schools to return to the teaching of a broad and balanced curriculum, we are reintroducing our teaching of swimming this term. We are very pleased to be able to provide all of our children in Key Stage 2 with the opportunity and experience of attending taught swimming lessons at some time during the year.

All schools must provide swimming instruction either in Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2. In particular, pupils should be taught to swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres using a range of strokes effectively (for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke). Not only do lessons enable children to develop effective swimming skills, they ensure that they work towards acquiring an important life skill, being safe in and around water.

Taking into account that we are still adhering to key Covid measures, and also that children have missed the opportunity to swim during lockdowns, we are introducing some changes to the organisation of our swimming lessons this year. We have considered the age of our children, the National Curriculum requirements and the use of the facilities and transport. Consequently, only one year group will swim each Friday afternoon rather than two; this will mean that each lesson will be for an hour (rather than 30 minutes as in previous years). The sessions are led by a highly experienced and fully qualified swimming teacher, Mrs Elaine Hill, who has worked in this role for many years; the children are also supported by the children's own classteacher and classroom support staff. Children of varying abilities are all supported accordingly and the content of each swimming lesson is adapted so that every child is able to progress and develop, from those who are water-shy and not yet able to swim to those who swim competitively for local swimming clubs. We appreciate that a few children may not enjoy swimming as much as others but the opportunity of learning to swim in this environment usually helps them to overcome any anxiety they may have. Please discuss this with staff beforehand.



Due to the doubling in length of the swimming lesson, the parental contribution we are asking for is more per session but it still works out roughly the same overall as in previous years. When the cost of the hire of the pool, transport to and from the pool and the salary of the swimming instructor is taken into account, together with the level of expertise, it still represents very good value for money at £6 for an hour long taught lesson.

The main focus for swimming will be with Years 4 and 5 during the Autumn and Spring Terms, with Years 3 and 6 in the Summer Term.

To this end, Year 4 will be swimming from Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September until Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October.

Year 5 will be swimming during the second half of this term, from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November until Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Children will need swimming trunks/one piece swimsuit, a towel and goggles (optional) in a separate bag with their name clearly attached. Please note that it is a requirement of the pool that all children must wear a swimming hat; these are available to purchase from the School Office at a cost of 75 pence.

The cost of swimming can be paid weekly (£6) or by one payment of £36 at the start of the sessions. We prefer the use of our online payment system, Pay360 Education Payments (formerly Sims Pay). If a swimming session cannot take place due to pool closure or staff illness, the money paid in advance for that session will be refunded.

If you have any questions in relation to any aspect of these swimming lessons, please do not hesitate to contact me via the School Office.

Thank you, in advance, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

*S A Barnard-Taylor*

Mrs S A Barnard-Taylor  
Headteacher

