



Dear Parents,

8th September 2023

We will be continuing our excellent swimming programme again this year. Our main priority is to ensure we meet all pupils' needs and adhere to the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum (NC). We have the extra incentive for our Year 6 children to be competent and safe in open water due to the excellent water-based activities which we enjoy on the Isle of Wight residential. We are going to include Year 2 children in our programme again, and Year 6 will only swim if they do not yet meet the NC requirement. Swimming is excellent exercise as well as a lot of fun and we are lucky enough to have four swimming teachers available to us again, which will mean the children will continue to be taught in small groups. Swimming will take place on a Monday morning from 11am-12pm. Children who forget swimming kit will be provided with spare, so we will not accept any excuses!

This year's swimming timetable is as follows:

Autumn Term 2023

Monday 11th September - Monday 27th November: All year 5 and all year 6 children (from Miss Govey's and Miss Miles' class)

Spring Term 2024

Monday 8th January - Monday 25th March: all year 3 and all year 4 children (from Miss Govey's and Mrs Delaney's class) **PLUS** any Y5 or Y6 not meeting the NC requirements (one of those dates will be given to the gala team- you will be notified nearer the time)

Summer Term 2024

Monday 15th April - Monday 8th July: Miss Wadforth's Year 2 children **PLUS** and Y3/4/5/6 not meeting the NC requirements. (one of those dates will be given to the gala team- you will be notified nearer the time)

As last year, we are going to be able to fund the majority of the swimming programme cost through school funds. Children will receive 10 hours of swimming teaching (one hour each week) and we are asking for a small voluntary contribution of £17 per child (about one eighth of the total cost). Please provide your child with a costume, hat and towel. One-piece costumes are better for the girls and jammers or trunks are better than board / beach shorts for the boys.

There are a very high number of water-related accidents, even in shallow water, in the UK every year and we hope you will continue to support our swimming programme, understand the importance we place on water safety and appreciate the National Curriculum requirements we must ensure all pupils reach before leaving Key Stage 2. As a coach for Dunmow Atlantis Swimming Club and a very keen swimmer myself, I know that there is always room to improve swimming strokes and technique!

Please log onto Schnappy 'Events' to pay your £17 contribution.

Yours sincerely, Miss Miles