



THE GRANGE SCHOOL

The Grange School
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Dear Parents / Carers,

Swimming Lessons 2023

Venue: JJ's Swim School, Long Buckby NN6 7PF

Day: Wednesday

Time: 12:30 onwards

Your child will be swimming during this academic year.

Over the summer, we have worked closely with our swimming teachers to evaluate swimming provision. Because we want to make our swimming teaching better - and to increase the number of children who meet the national curriculum requirement each year - we are making some changes to the way we organise swimming lessons.

Swimming is a requirement within the National Curriculum (NC) for Primary aged children needing to 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, Breaststroke.

Thanks to previous swimming lessons - both inside and outside of school - some of our children have already achieved this standard. Once a child masters long multiplication in maths, we don't insist they keep learning to multiply every week for the rest of their school career. We will be treating swimming in the same way from now on. Children who have already met the NC standard, will now swim for a minimum of 4, hour long, swimming sessions. After their 4 week entitlement, instead of swimming, your child will receive their PE activity in a different way each week.

Other children will receive a run of intensive swimming lessons designed to increase their chances of achieving the NC standard. We are using some of our PE & Sport Premium to provide an extra hour of swimming each week, in order that the majority of children can swim when they leave our school. Children will swim for at least a term; but the actual number of weeks may vary based on what support they need in order to achieve the standard.

Once a child achieves the standard, they may continue to swim for a few weeks to ensure they are confident, before their swimming sessions will also end. Remember, every child will receive a minimum of 4 weeks swimming.

Some children may swim for a few weeks, then take a break of a few weeks, before resuming their lessons later in the year. Your child may begin swimming at a different time to their friends and they may stop at a different time too. We will make sure we explain this to the children.

We are excited about meeting our own challenge of getting the majority of children swimming before they leave us. We appreciate your support in this area. We also require you to be flexible; encourage your child to swim at the right times and have their kit ready so that they can swim at any time during the year.

Swimming lessons will take place on a Wednesday during the school day. Your child will travel to and from JJ's Swim School in Long Buckby in the school minibus, with staff trained in driving the vehicle. Next week, we will provide further information about what swimming lessons consist of.

Please be aware that it would be beneficial for all children who are swimming to have a packed lunch on Wednesdays. One group travels to the pool over the lunchtime period and this will help us to be more flexible with lunchtime meals. Your support is very much appreciated with this. If you have any questions about this, please Dojo either Vicki Masters or Luce Barbour and we will endeavour to ensure your child swims at a later time in the day.

So that we can be ready to swim at short notice, we are asking you all to give permission now for your child to swim at some point this year. We will always let you know when it is your child's turn to begin swimming. If your child is swimming next week, you should have received a message already.

It is essential for permission to be given via Parent Pay in order for your child to be able to participate in lessons. **If we do not have your permission, unfortunately your child will not be able to go.** Please ensure that your child brings their swimming kit and a towel on Wednesdays. If your child needs to wear swimming goggles, could you please indicate on the slip below. **Please provide a swimming hat for your child as hats must be worn in the pool.**

Lucyanne Barbour
PE and School Sport Lead

Vicki Masters
Strategic Sports Lead