

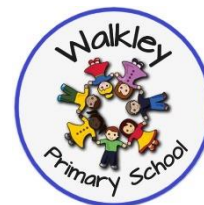
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*'Enjoyment, Achievement and Learning for life...'*

Headteacher: Val Sian

Deputy Headteacher: Chris Wallis

Chair of the Governing Body: Andy Wilcock

28.9 20

### **Covid – 19 Update – Swimming lessons for Y4 Fantastic Foxes**

Dear Parent / Carers

The Sheffield School Swim Service and Walkley Primary School understand the importance of learning to swim – it is the only physical activity which can save your life. Drowning is the third most common cause of accidental death in children and we want Sheffield children to have the best chance if they should fall into water. Your child is due to start their school swimming lessons on the Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October. This letter is to provide you with some information which aims to answer your questions about what they will learn, provide you with information on the steps you can take to help prepare your child for their lessons and give you confidence about your child attending school swimming in the current climate.

**The aim of these lessons is to teach your child to:** Perform safe self-rescue in different water based situations; Swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of AT LEAST 25m and use a range of strokes effectively, for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke. As well as learning to swim the basic strokes, your child will learn how to be safe around different water environments e.g. beaches, lakes, canals etc. Your child will know how the skills they learn in their swimming lessons can be used in an emergency situation.

**As a parent, guardian or carer you play a vital role** in encouraging your child to swim and to help them to learn about water safety, survival and lifesaving before they attend their school swimming sessions to ensure that they get the most from each and every lesson.

. The school swimming service request that:

- Swim shorts for boys should be no longer than knee length.
- Girls are required to wear one-piece swimming costumes (no bikinis/tankinis to be worn).
- Lightweight materials only.
- No jewellery to be worn. Ear piercings must be removed and a new piercing will prevent children from attending lessons for six weeks.
- Long hair is tied back (children to bring their own bobbles if needed).
- Each child needs to bring a suitable sized towel inside a bag separate to their school bag.
- Shampoo, conditioners and other hair products are **not** required.

The swimming staff prefer that the children **do not** wear goggles. However, if your child needs to wear them for health reasons, please ask for a permission slip.

More information can be found here: <https://www.swimming.org/schools/parents-and-pupils/>

## The Covid -19 pandemic and School Swimming:

The priority for Walkley Primary School and the School Swimming Service is to make sure that pupils, school teachers and swimming teachers are always as safe as possible whilst providing quality educational experiences for our pupils. The School Swim Service is working closely with the venues to enable children to get back to learning this vital life skill. The team are closely monitoring the covid-19 pandemic and are operating well within government guidelines. If you want to view risk assessments and venue specific procedure please click here <https://www.sheffieldschoolswimming.co.uk/covid19/>. All procedures have been implemented in line with current guidance and advice from Swim England and the Government, as well as monitoring the local response.

In the event the UK Government or local authority advises Zest to close one or all of the pools they will suspend lessons for the required period of time. They will reopen when advised to do so and when it is considered safe. **We will keep you informed.**

Steps taken to keep children safe at school swimming lessons:

- The school swimming timetable has been amended to accommodate lessons at the pools that are opening.
- There is extra time between lessons to avoid schools meeting in venues, to allow for more cleaning of the pool side and changing rooms.
- Zest have purchased extra equipment and have all the necessary PPE for their staff.
- School staff will be required to wear coverings whilst entering the leisure facilities.

The School Swimming Service and Zest are very much looking forward to helping your child learn to swim. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with them using the link above.

Please sign and return the permission slip below by **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September**, or alternatively complete the google form: [Swimming Year 4 fantastic Foxes](#) indicating any relevant health issues/medication that we should be aware of. If your child uses an inhaler, it is important that this is taken to each session. If you have any concerns please contact [enquires@walkley.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:enquires@walkley.sheffield.sch.uk)

Kind regards

Jess Kendall

Year 4 teacher and sports co-ordinator and School Swimming Service

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### Swimming – 2020 / 2021

Please return to Miss Kendall as soon as possible to acknowledge that you have received this letter and are aware of the equipment that children will be required to bring to school with them each Friday.

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Medication / Health issues we need to be aware of e.g. inhaler \_\_\_\_\_