

Wednesday 15th January 2025

Dear Parents,

RE: Y5 Swimming Lessons

Dear Year 5 parents,

Thank you for your responses to our parent volunteer requests for Year 5's weekly swimming sessions. We have been pleased that so many of you have shown an interest in accompanying our Year 5 class. As explained on the Google form you completed, parent volunteers will be called upon when needed and as we have several parents who are available to accompany us, we are in the process of setting up a rota so that those who have said they can attend have a fair chance to do so.

As we have two members of staff attending each week, for number ratios for public transport we will require only **1 additional adult** who we will select from the parent volunteers list. We will aim to give parents at least two weeks notice for this to ensure that you are still able to attend and that you can plan ahead of time. However, there may be circumstances when this is not possible so you may be called upon up to the day before if we need to have a parent volunteer at late notice. This may be as a result of change of circumstances for a parent or the school and we appreciate your flexibility should this be the case. We do not have the capacity to inform all parents each week so we will only contact those parents who have been selected. If you have not been contacted, please understand that this indicates that while your offer of help is appreciated it is not required for that week.

Parent volunteer expectations

If you are selected to accompany us as a parent volunteer, there are rules and guidance that we will follow. We have outlined these below.

1. We will travel to and from swimming on public transport (bus) and your transport cost both ways will be covered by a school oyster card, which will be provided by a staff member as we leave and collected upon return.
2. Upon arrival at the swimming pool, you will be able to access the public gallery upstairs and can watch some of the swimming lessons from there. Parents are not able to access the changing room area or poolside due to safeguarding reasons. There are chargeable refreshment facilities which you can use if you wish.
3. Children are expected to be fully focused on the instructions they are being given by the trained instructors in order to stay safe in the water. We therefore request that supporting adults do not attempt to gain children's attention during the lesson as this may distract them.
4. Following the lesson, staff will supervise children in the changing rooms and will meet you in the foyer area.



There are also a few things to note about the facilities and procedures at swimming which as a school we adhere to:

- Girls and boys have separate changing rooms.
- The children use communal changing rooms specifically for schools. When changing, there will only be one school in there at one time. They must keep their belongings tidy and use the designated areas in the changing room to avoid items becoming lost.
- The children must get changed quickly when in the changing rooms as we have an allocated swimming slot and there are other schools accessing the swimming pool.
- It is not possible for children to use individual private cubicles as these are in a different area and not supervised by staff. They are also accessible to members of the public and therefore a safeguarding risk. To ensure the safety of all children, boys and girls must stay in the communal changing room area.
- Year 5 have been briefed about the importance of focusing on their own changing and we understand that at first this experience can be daunting for some of the children. Prior to Covid, children at Woodlands were used to changing for PE in their classrooms. However, as we now attend school in our PE kits, changing around their peers is an unfamiliar experience, which may be expected to do in high school. Children can wear their swimming costumes to the pool under their clothing, which will make changing for the lesson quicker. In previous years we are aware of children developing a skill of changing out of their swimming costume while wrapped in a towel. This may be something they wish to practice at home.
- At Woodlands we promote positive self image and self esteem through our daily interactions with children and our PSHE curriculum. We are expected to adhere to the allocated facilities of the swimming pool for schools and do our best to accommodate requests within these limitations.
- Swimming is a very important life skill to learn and it is part of the PE curriculum. The school commits funding and time to access a pool which is not local following the closure of Gurnell Leisure Centre and it is therefore important that all children participate each week.

Thank you for your support. If you have any further questions, please contact us via the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Hasker and Ms Moxom