06 December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers of Pupils in Cherry Class (Year 3)

**Swimming Lessons – Spring Term 2020**

Pupils in Cherry Class will begin their swimming lessons on **Tuesday 7th January** in the afternoon. The lessons will run throughout Terms 3 and 4, for a total of 12 weeks and will take place **at The Vale Community Campus, Pewsey.** Children will be transported by coach, leaving school at approximately 1.00 pm and returning for the end of the school day.

Swimming and water safety are **statutory requirements** of the National Curriculum, which states that:

**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**

**•use a range of strokes effectively [for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke]**

**•perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations**

We are pleased to let you know that this year our pupils will be taught by two swimming teachers, **Mrs Angela Deadman** and **Mrs Denyse Boaler**, both of whom are based at The Vale Community Campus and are very much looking forward to working with the children and staff from Cherry Class.

School staff and our swimming teachers alike are very aware that within the class there will be a broad range of both swimming confidence and competence. Together we are very keen that all pupils should get the most from their swimming sessions in terms of pool time and progression. The first swimming session in September will enable Mrs Deadman and Mrs Boaler to assess the children’s swimming skills and thereafter they will group the children to maximise the progress they can make over the rest of the terms. Confident and already proficient swimmers will be able to complete challenges including aquatic skills, self-rescue, distance challenges and survival, all of which will complement and enhance the swimming they may already be doing outside of school.

All pupils will require a swimming bag containing swimming costume (no bikinis or costumes with complicated straps, please) or trunks (no board shorts, please) and a towel. To minimise changing time after our swimming sessions, pupils with long hair are advised to wear swimming hats and socks are definitely preferable to tights on swimming days.

Transport, pool time and tuition for swimming lessons is costly – indeed, the cost for this course of lessons would be £85 per pupil - and despite a subsidy from our PTA, to whom we are extremely grateful, we still need to ask for a voluntary contribution of £50 from parents towards the twelve lessons, please. Miss Bolwell will set up the parental contribution on our School Gateway system and will make provision for it to be paid either as a whole amount or spread across the spring terms.

We hope that these arrangements with regard to transport, pool time and tuition will afford the children the opportunities to successfully meet the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum and become happy, proficient and more confident swimmers.

Finally, to assist further with the assessment of pupils’ swimming competence and confidence, we would like you to complete the slip below and return in to school as soon as possible.

We would also like to make a request for any additional help on our swimming afternoons from parents or wider family members who may be able to lend a hand with accompanying the children, please. If you are able to assist please indicate so on the form below.

Please don’t hesitate to contact either Mrs Crichard, our PE subject leader, Miss Bolwell or myself if you have any concerns or require additional information.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Sarah Brewis

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| **Cherry Class Swimming Lessons, Spring Terms 2020** | |
| Childs Name: | |
| She / he has lessons outside of school. | Yes / No |
| If your child has received any certificates, awards or grades for their swimming please indicate their most recent award received. |  |
| She / he can swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25m. | Yes / No |
| She / he can use a range of strokes effectively. | Front crawl Yes / No  Backstroke Yes / No  Breaststroke Yes / No |
| She / he can perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations. | Yes / No |
| I will make a donation of £50 towards the cost of the course of lessons via School Gateway. |  |
| I am able to assist with swimming lessons on the following dates (please circle your availability):  January 7th  14th  21st  28th  February 4th  11th  25th  March 3rd  10th  17th  24th  31st | |
| Signature of parent | |