

REDBOURN JUNIOR SCHOOL
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'Building our Futures Together'

16 January 2018

Dear Parents

YEAR 3 SWIMMING LESSONS – WESTMINSTER LODGE

Year 4 have almost completed a whole year of swimming lessons; which have succeeded in making all but a small number into swimmers. The National Curriculum requires that every child will be able to swim 25 metres by the time they leave the Junior School.

From Tuesday 20 February, Year 3 will begin a year of swimming lessons at the Westminster Lodge Pool. The lessons cost £1.45 each and of course we need to hire a coach to take the children to and from St. Albans. We therefore have to ask for payment to cover the costs.

The payment for the first half term is £22.00. Payments can only be made via School Gateway. Please ensure payment is made by **Friday 2 February 2018**.

	CONFIRMED DATES
Spring Term 2	20 February to 27 March 2018
Summer Term 1	17 April to 22 May 2018
Summer Term 2	5 June to 17 July 2018
	PROVISIONAL DATES - TBC
Autumn Term 1	11 September – 23 October 2018
Autumn Term 2	6 November – 18 December 2018
Spring Term 1	15 January – 12 February 2019

Your child will need a swimming hat for lessons. Can we also make a request on behalf of the swimming pool and teachers that for safety and ease of movement in the water, boys wear close fitting trunks and girls wear a close fitting one piece swimsuit.

On occasions we have been faced with parents withdrawing their children from swimming for minor issues such as a slight cold. It is difficult for us to safely manage any number of children who are withdrawn from swimming. Any more than one or two children being placed in another class can seriously impact upon the teaching and learning taking place in that class, and is not always appropriate for the child being withdrawn.

Swimming is part of the National curriculum and is therefore compulsory. When a child has a significant medical reason for not swimming, e.g. broken bones, the school will supervise that child whilst the rest of the class go swimming. All other children will be expected to take part in the lesson. The following paragraph is taken from the National curriculum in England: primary curriculum (www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-primary-curriculum)

Swimming and water safety

All schools must provide swimming instruction either in key stage 1 or key stage 2. The aim of these lessons is to ensure pupils are 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 looking for some parental support when taking the children swimming on Tuesday afternoons. Several experienced members of staff accompany the children to Westminster Lodge but some additional help would be very welcome. If you feel you would be interested in supporting the school in this way please contact me by via email or phone. Parents would need to be in school by 1.10pm and we aim to return to school by 3.15pm. We can organise a rota should some parents not wish to attend every week.

I hope that your child enjoys the opportunity to improve their skills whether a beginner or a good swimmer.

Yours sincerely

Jacqui Abington
School Administrator