



Swimming

26.5.2021

Dear parents of children in KS2,

We are aware that children have not been able to go swimming with school due to lockdown/restrictions. We do want to support all our children in becoming proficient to the standard of swimming 25 meters and have been in discussion with Stroud Leisure Centre since the start of term to see if we can start using our swimming time slot again as restrictions on swimming pool use has been eased – we are awaiting their confirmation still but believe this will be possible.

As not mixing class bubbles is one of the core control measures in school and we have been told by the LA these restrictions are not likely to alter until June 21st at the earliest **we are very sorry but we will not be able to take the Year 5 children in Class 4 swimming this year.**

We have considered taking just the Y6 children swimming to make it fair to the Y5 children in C4, however we do not have staff free to teach the remaining Y5s in Class 5. We have considered not going at all but we feel swimming is a key skill and we need to give the opportunity to our Year 6 children before they leave us. Restrictions allowing, we will of course aim to take all our children swimming next academic year.

I have spoken with the Year 5 children in Class 4 today to explain-we understand the disappointment but hope they/you understand we are doing the best we can within our capacity/the restrictions. We are not allowed to use sports funding for core swimming lessons. However we are allowed to use it for additional lessons. For the Year 5 children in Class 4 we will be able to fund up to £60 worth of swimming lessons for you if you arrange these with a local pool. These can be 1:1 or group lessons as restrictions/capacity allow at the local pools. From speaking to local providers it is likely that 1:1 lessons can be purchased at Dursley pool now and group lessons will be available in Dursley after the June 21st reduction of restrictions; In Stroud pool, group lessons are not available as a block but 1:1 lessons are likely to be available after the June 21st. The pools will need to invoice the school and we will make the payment directly to the pool/leisure centre.

If you have a child in Class 5, you will receive a letter soon which outlines when/how swimming will take place this term.

I have booked a pool party at Dursley Pool for children Class 3 and another for children in Class 4 to provide an opportunity for swimming and water activity for all children in KS2. A

range of inflatables will be available for the pool parties: aqua glide, submarine, rafts and float. School staff will not attend but there will be a lifeguard in the pool. It is your choice on whether you want your child to attend – I know parents have different views on risk presently. If you want to join in the Class 3 pool party it will be on Saturday 3rd July at 6.30pm. The party will be 45 mins long. The Class 4 pool party will be Saturday 10th July at 6.30pm for 45 mins.

Again I apologise for any dismay caused to Y5 children in Class 4.

With kind regards,

Zoe Avastu

Headteacher