



BLAKEDOWN CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

BIRMINGHAM ROAD

BLAKEDOWN

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Head Teacher:

Mrs. H. E. Beckford-Bond B.Sc (Hons) NPQH

12/12/2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 3 & 4 Swimming

Swimming sessions for all Year 3 and 4 children will commence on **Thursday 12th January** for 6 weeks, ending on (and including) **16th February**. We will be using the Wyre Forest Leisure Centre facilities and have been allocated a swimming slot at 2.30 p.m. - 3.00 p.m. Year 3 & 4 will travel by coach to the leisure centre and will be taught by the swimming instructors there. Mrs Anderson, Miss Waldren and other members of staff attending with the children. It is envisaged that children will arrive back at school at around 3.40 p.m.

As schools have a statutory responsibility to ensure that children can swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres; use a range of strokes effectively such as front crawl, backstroke and breast-stroke; and perform safe self-rescue, these will be the focus areas for lessons on each visit. The children's swimming ability will be assessed by the swimming instructors and they will be taught according to their swimming capability during this time.

Each Thursday, your child will need a swimming costume (one piece costumes for girls and trunks or tight fitting shorts above the knee for boys) and a towel which should be carried in a bag large enough to hold all school uniform as once the children are dressed in their swimming costume, they need to take all their belongings to the poolside with them. All hair longer than shoulder length will need to be tied up. If you would like your child to wear goggles, a permission slip must be completed (please see attached information regarding goggles).

School will be paying for the costs of the pool and the swimming teachers, however a contribution to support the costs of transport is required; this is a total of £21.60 for the 6 weeks which should be made via P4S.

Please complete the electronic form via ParentMail and contributions should be paid via P4S no later than **Thursday 5th January**

Yours sincerely

It is county policy that goggles should not be worn unless parents are aware of their potential risks and a signed letter from parents is obtained.

If goggles are fitted correctly, I have no objection to the children wearing them, as long as the permission slip below is submitted. We are not prepared however, to alter goggles on poolside as this takes a lot of time to do properly and takes attention away from the other children; additionally goggles can sometimes break due to perished straps.

Prior to deciding whether or not your child should wear goggles, you should be aware of the following dangers:-

1. Only buy goggles to BS 5883 standard from a well-known manufacturer. Cheaper goggles may splinter easily.
2. Children should rinse goggles before use to prevent 'misting up'. If they do mist children should stop and clear them.
3. It is important when removing goggles to push them up and then off the top of the head. Never pull goggles forward or they may fly back and cause serious eye injury.
4. Collisions may sometimes occur with other swimmers or on the poolside, which may cause injury.

Please note also that jewellery must not be worn. In the past we have turned a blind eye to studs, however, this is no longer possible and any child with any form of jewellery will not be allowed to swim.

Please complete the goggles form via Parentmail if you would like your child to wear them by **Monday 9th January.**