

17th January 2024

Year 4

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello all!

I hope that you are enjoying Spring term.

You may have been wondering what is happening with Swimming lessons at Parkdale! School Swimming is a rite of passage, traditionally provided through a council service, at a local pool. We held a review which revealed that children were making a very small amount of progress. We considered the significant time that they were out of school, and the significant cost this involved, and decided that a rethink of our approach was required.

Swimming is the only part of the PE Curriculum that is statutory. Moreover it is an essential life skill. It is an excellent way to keep fit, offering some children the opportunity to build resilience and confidence, and for some children the potential to join a club and compete. I believe that all of our children deserve the opportunity to learn to swim. We can't do this exclusively at school, but we can support you, our community, by offering our children a fun and exciting swimming experience, in small groups and quality lessons. If you would like signposting to quality local lessons, please send Mrs Rippon an email!

This year we are very excited to announce that a pool is coming to Parkdale! For two weeks this term and two weeks in the summer **Elite Pools for School** will be here to provide lessons. The pool is heated, private and undercover. It comes fully equipped, with a lifeguard and swimming teacher. Children will receive lessons in groups of 6-8.

In your child's year group they will have swimming lessons on the week commencing 29 January. They will be in groups of 8. They will have a swimming lesson every day that week. If at the end of the week, the teacher identifies that your child needs another week of lessons, they will be allocated a place on the week commencing 5th February. They will all also have an opportunity to swim in the Summer.

Logistics will be as follows:

On the days of their lessons children will

*wear PE kit all day - for ease of changing



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*need a dressing gown/robe and trainers to cover up between the changing area and pool

*bring a towel

*need a swimming costume (as per previous lessons this must be tight fit jammers for a boy and a one piece for a girl)

*need a swimming cap (mandatory for all to maintain the pool filter – school will have a limited supply to borrow)

* need to wear goggles unless you choose to opt out (the swimming teachers recommend goggles)

If you have any questions or further enquiries please email me, with an email subject Swimming, hrippon@parkdale.notts.sch.uk

Hayley Rippon

Reception Class Teacher, PE Lead, Parallel Provision Lead teacher