

September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to inform you that this year your child will take part in swimming lessons as part of their Physical Education entitlement. We hope that she/he will enjoy and benefit from the swimming course.

All Year 3 children will go to Chadderton Wellbeing Centre for swimming lessons. Each class swims for an hour. Children are accompanied by a class teacher and/or support teacher. The children will walk to the swimming pool.

Swimming kit

The boys should wear close-fitting trunks, **not shorts**.
The girls should wear a swimming costume and a swimming cap.

It is important that the children bring with them a towel large enough that they can dry themselves properly. Jewellery must be removed before entering the pool including earrings. Pierced ears are not an excuse to miss swimming and children must only have their ears pierced in the summer holidays to allow them time to heal for swimming. Children are not allowed to wear goggles. We have a few swimming kits in school to lend in an emergency, but obviously it is better that children remember to bring their own kit, rather than borrow one.

Children are only allowed to miss swimming due to a serious injury or illness. If your child is unable to swim, this should be communicated by letter and a doctors or hospital advice note if possible. The Headteacher will be informed of swimming attendance.

If children are well enough to be in school, they are generally well enough to go swimming.

Swimming is a skill that could save your child's life. Drowning is the third most common cause of accidental death in children so it is vital that every child has the opportunity to learn to swim and gain confidence in the water.

Swimming is part of the National Curriculum in England and lessons are delivered by experienced, qualified, swimming teachers. The curriculum states:

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)
- develop water confidence and water safety skills
- perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations

Please read the attached brochure for more information.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. H. Atkinson-Smith
Headteacher

If you require assistance or an alternative format for this letter, please contact the office who will be able to help.