



Monday 27 March 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

### **Swimming Lessons at Poplar Farm School**

Thank you to those of you who have already made the voluntary contributions towards the swimming lessons next term. Some of you have been in touch for more information, so rather than individual replies, we thought a letter to you all might be helpful for everyone.

#### **How many lessons will my child receive?**

We have planned for the children to receive 7 lessons of 30 minutes each over the 3-week period.

#### **How many children are in the groups?**

The maximum size of a group will be 12 children, although most groups will have 8 children in them.

#### **Will the children be grouped by year or ability?**

We will ask parents later this week the current swimming ability of their child - non-swimmer / 10m / over 25m etc. This will then enable us to group the children in ability. We also hope to be able to group the children in year groups where possible, although this cannot be guaranteed.

#### **Why are you not using the Meres Leisure Centre for the swimming lessons?**

We spent a great deal of time costing swimming on site versus swimming at the leisure centre, and with transport to consider, our research showed it is far more cost effective to have the pool on site. Another reason for our decision is that children will not lose class learning time by having swimming lessons on site. For example, when travelling to a leisure centre for lessons, the children would be out of school for approximately 2 hours, with only 20 minutes in the water. Having the pool on site also means more children can enjoy swimming lessons every year.

#### **Why do we have to pay?**

As with all additional curriculum activities, we ask for voluntary contributions towards them. If we do not receive contributions from parents, we cannot always guarantee additional activities take place. Sports Premium Funding cannot be used to fund national curriculum lessons.

IF YOU REQUIRE ANY LETTERS TRANSLATING, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL

Poplar Farm Primary School, Helmsley Road, Grantham, NG31 8XF. Telephone 01476 850680

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C.I.T Academies is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee registered in England with the name Community Inclusive Trust.

The company's registered number is 9071623 and registered office is: C.I.T Academies, Warwick House, Long Bennington Business Park, NG23 5JR.

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### **How deep is the swimming pool?**

The pool has the capacity to be 1.4m deep (the signs around the pool state 1.4m), but for our lessons the water will be 1.2m deep.

### **Who is teaching the lessons?**

Our swimming instructor is called Janine, and is a qualified swimming teacher who has extensive experience in teaching children how to swim.

### **Is there a lifeguard?**

In addition to Janine, there will also be a qualified swimming lesson lifeguard present in all lessons.

### **Are the lessons compulsory?**

The national curriculum states that children should be able to achieve the following before they leave primary school:

- 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.

Children are expected to take part in the lessons if do not meet the requirements listed above.

### **Will the lessons be for Y2, Y3 and Y4 again next year?**

We plan to offer the lessons in the same year groups again next year. Children in Y4 who do not meet the requirements of the National Curriculum will be offered 'top up' lessons in UKS2 (Y5 or Y6).

### **What happens in future lessons if my child meets the national curriculum requirements?**

This will be parental choice. However, if the children meet the above requirement the children will be able to further develop their life saving and water first aid skills.

### **How ensure children are kept safe with a swimming pool on site?**

The pool is situated in a purpose-built marquee, which will be locked when not in use. CCTV and an alarm are also in use out of school hours. Staff will always be present in the pool area when the children have lessons.

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### **Where will the children get changed for the swimming lessons?**

Children will get changed in classrooms. Boys and girls will be getting changed in separate rooms. As a reminder, children will need: Swimming costumes (not bikinis), swimming hats, goggles, flip flops or sliders, dressing gown (or similar) and a towel. Please can these come into school in a named bag on your child's swimming lesson days.

### **Will the children have photos taken in the pool?**

Children will not be photographed or videoed during lessons by Elite Swimming. Some children might be photographed, but only if you have been contacted by school to give parental consent beforehand.

### **Can we see what the pool looks like?**

We don't have photos of the pool on site, as it won't be here until after the Easter break. However, should you wish to view some (and a video of the pool in use), please visit the website:

<https://www.eliteswimming.co.uk/>

We are very much looking forward to starting swimming lessons at Poplar Farm School, and are delighted to be working with an inclusive and highly regarded company to enable us to deliver enjoyable lessons for our children.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Hodson  
Head Teacher

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