Westfields JUNIOR SCHOOL
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UNITE - INSPIRE - EXCEL

7th September 2021

Dear Parents,

As I am sure you are aware, due to Covid Restrictions our Year 5 pupils for the last two years have not been able to complete their swimming course which is a statutory expectation by the end of KS2. We have subsequently worked hard to secure availability and have allocated funding to make necessary arrangements for our current Year 6 pupils at no cost to parents.

We are very excited to be in a position to be able to offer swimming lessons to Year 6 pupils this term. We highly value this opportunity and the importance of all our learners achieving the minimum expectation as identified in our National Curriculum which states that 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]*
- *perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations*

We recognise that there will be a range of swimming abilities across our Year 6 cohort and that there will be those pupils who are less confident in water and those who will swim regularly! We want every child to be able to succeed in achieving these national expectations during their lessons, while also challenging and stretching those children who are already confident at swimming. In preparation for these lessons, we will need to group children according to their confidence and ability in the water. It would be extremely useful to us if you could take a few minutes of your time to fill in the information on the following google doc Year 6 Swimming outlining your child's ability and confidence level when swimming as well as any specific medical information that you feel will be important for us to know when taking your child swimming. Above all, we hope that children will walk away from their swimming lessons with a sense of achievement at enhancing a skill which will last them the rest of their lives.

I apologise for the short notice but as I have mentioned, I am just delighted that we are able to achieve this. From **Wednesday 15th September**, Year 6 classes will be commencing swimming on rolling cycle as detailed below.

15th September	22nd September	29th September	6th October	13th October	20th October
6LL	6HC	6LB	6LL	6HC	6LB
6LB	6LL	6HC	6LB	6LL	6HC

Each swimming session lasts for 1 hour and will take place in Yateley School swimming pool, under the guidance of qualified swimming teachers, a lifeguard and a member of WJS staff (usually your child's class teacher).

It is essential that all children have the correct kit with them each week. For each lesson, children must ensure they have the following items:

- Swimming trunks or short swimming shorts (please avoid long surfer-style or boarding shorts, this is a health and safety requirement that the swimming teachers adhere to strictly)
- A one piece swimming costume (please avoid bikinis for practical reasons)
- A towel
- A bag for swimming kit
- Swimming hats are recommended for health and safety reasons
- Goggles if required

If you require any support or advice, or you have any questions about any aspect of the swimming lessons, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Jo Redman
Headteacher