Dear Parents and Carers

Keep Saltford Swimming

At Saltford we are lucky to have a swimming pool on site. However, the maintenance, running costs and swimming teacher’s wages are understandably expensive and with the current educational funding crisis we do need your support to continue to fund the upkeep of the pool. Last year the pool running costs amounted to approximately £7,000 (details about the running costs can be found on the swimming section of the school website here).

In evaluating the other available options, the school has carried out research into the possibility of taking our children to a local leisure centre for swimming and concluded that it would not be viable. It would mean that we could only offer swimming to one year group and for only six weeks during the year. Please read further information detailing why this is here.

If we are to keep all children at Saltford School swimming we respectfully ask parents for a voluntary contribution to cover the lessons, running costs and repairs for this academic year September 2018 – July 2019. The suggested contribution is £25.70 per pupil (20 weeks). For those parents of children in our Reception classes, swimming starts in Term 5. As these children will only swim once a week for 13 weeks, the suggested contribution is £15.50 per child. However, if you feel that you are able to contribute more we would be very grateful for any donations.

Swimming will start after the Easter Holiday, week commencing 22nd April, although for children in Reception classes their lessons will start on Monday 29th April as the 22nd is a Bank Holiday. Parents of children in Reception will receive an additional letter and questionnaire. Please click here to view the swimming timetable for the Summer Term. Please ensure your child comes to school with their swimming kit on their class swimming day – there is limited capacity for staff to make telephone calls home for forgotten kit. We have not reached the decision to make this request lightly as we understand that not every family will be able to make a contribution. However, we cannot save costs by offering fewer lessons because if the pool is not operated regularly enough then it would become irreparably damaged. If we do not receive sufficient contributions for this academic year, we will have to very seriously consider permanently discontinuing swimming at Saltford and pursuing the much inferior but cheaper public pool provision instead.

Please donate online via the School Gateway. A link to the School Gateway system is available on our website or by clicking this link: https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login

Each class will require a number of helpers in order for swimming to take place and these helpers must have a DBS in place. Reception and Key Stage 1 classes will require 5 helpers and Key Stage 2 classes will require 1 helper. Sign-up sheets are available outside each classroom – please do sign up to help if you can.
We are also hoping to maintain a list of ‘Casual Swimming Helpers’ – those parents/carers/other family members who are willing to help with swimming at short notice and with classes other than their own child’s class. If you are willing to help in this way, please complete the form [here](#) and return it to the school office.

In order to help with swimming, there are a number of forms you will need to complete in order that the school can undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service check – please click [here](#) to download the forms. Completed forms should be returned to the school office. If you already help in the classroom then we will already have the necessary paperwork.

We and the children thank you in advance for your contribution to Keep Saltford Swimming.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Sage
Headteacher