



**Saltford**  
CofE Primary School

Saltford CofE Primary School  
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**Headteacher:** Dawn Sage  
**Chair of Governors:** Paul Cummings

7<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

### **APPEAL FOR SWIMMING FUNDING SUPPORT – Years 1-6**

Thank you to all of our families who support swimming at Saltford including making financial contributions and volunteering - we cannot offer this amazing opportunity without you.

However, we are unfortunately writing to you today about the school swimming pool and the risk that we may not be able to continue providing swimming lessons in school-time if more families are not able to support us.

We are extremely fortunate to have a swimming pool at Saltford School; something that most primary schools do not have. You may be aware that the pool was built in the 1960s in response to the tragic drowning of a child in the river in the village. The community felt strongly that swimming was a life-skill that all children in Saltford should have the opportunity to learn, so raised the funds needed to build the swimming pool.

Since then, the cost of providing swimming lessons has been borne in part by school and partly through parental donations. Parental donations are now the sole source of funding; school budgets are getting ever-more challenging and we simply cannot afford to pay for the pool from school funds. The recent arrangement with Barracuda Swimming means that we are able to keep our school swimming lessons at a very low price - currently a suggested donation of £3 per lesson. The benefit the school gets is the retention of this fabulous facility, but there is no financial benefit to the school, hence our ongoing dependence on parental donations. Indeed, Barracuda's own future on site is dependent on income from school day and evening lessons.

Uptake of parental donations has reduced significantly since Covid and the subsequent storm damage repair work to the pool. We recognise that household budgets are tight, that costs add up for families with siblings in school, and that many children have swimming lessons outside of school; but the ongoing provision of swimming lessons is only possible if the vast majority of children take up the opportunity. We will be sending a communication separately to those families who have not been able to make a contribution, to enable us to understand their views on this and how we can move forward. The current total of families who have not made a contribution is 95. We will also discuss swimming at the first Parent Voice Group meeting of the academic year.

Pupil Premium funding (based on income related benefits) is only available for the provision of lessons to support children whose parents are in receipt of this type of benefit.

Swimming is provided from April through to October, in Terms 5, 6 & 1 and, at a suggested cost of £3 a lesson, which will typically be £15 to £21 a term depending on the length of a term and the class commitments. Payment can be made fully in advance, or on a week-to-week basis, and is made via MCAS. For any parent wishing to donate more than £3 per lesson, overpayments can be made via the same route and all funding will go towards swimming lessons for all of our children.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mrs D Sage - Headteacher

Mr P Cummings – Chair of Governors