



0161 445 9337



admin@brps.net



www.beaverroad.org.uk



@BeaverRoad_Pri

BEAVER ROAD M20

Beaver Road Primary School

Beaver Road
Didsbury
Manchester
M20 6SX

21st October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of children in Year 4,

We are happy to tell you that your child will be starting school swimming lessons as of **Thursday 5th November 2020** at **Hough End Leisure Centre** and will continue swimming until the end of this academic year. This is a great opportunity for your child to either learn a new skill or develop an existing one. As these lessons form part of the National Curriculum, it is compulsory that your child attends these lessons and will be supported at every step.

Message from Manchester Swimming Association:

On behalf of the School Swimming Team we would like to welcome you and your child to the Manchester School Swimming Programme. We understand that there may be some concerns given the current pandemic that the country is going through. We want to assure you that all safety measures are in place at all our facilities and are constantly being reviewed in-line with government and local guidance. All schools have been provided with an FAQ sheet that answers many questions that we feel schools will face from parents/guardians, including additional communication in the form of videos for each facility so that the staff and pupils are fully aware of what to expect when they arrive.

All lessons will have a focus on your child achieving the National Curriculum standard:

1. Swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25m
2. Use a range of strokes effectively (front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke)
3. Perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations

Transport/ Swimming Arrangements

Your child will travel to and from the Hough End Leisure Centre via coach (BelleVue Coaches) which is provided by Beaver Road Primary School. Children will be swimming in two separate groups of 45, which means half the year group will be at school whilst the other half is swimming. If your child is in the second swimming group, they will arrive to school between 3:00 and 3:15. It is always our aim for children to return at 3:00, however depending on traffic there can sometimes be minor delays. Therefore, if your child is in the second group and has a sibling in the First School, we advise that on Thursdays, you pick up the First School children first at 3:20 and the Y4 children can be collected afterwards. During this time, they will stay with the after school club and Y4 staff. All parents with children in the second group will be notified separately via email so you will be aware of the possibility of children arriving back from swimming slightly later.

Equipment Required

Girls:-

- One-piece swimming costume
- A swimming hat is required to be worn if the hair covers the eyes or any airways
- A towel

Please note, that in order for your child to benefit from the swimming lessons, appropriate aquatic clothing must be worn. Should your child wish to wear items of clothing that cover up parts of the body, there are specific aquatic clothing designed for this purpose. Cotton leggings are detrimental to teaching and are a risk to health and safety.

Boys:-

- A pair of traditional swimming trunks
- A swimming hat is required to be worn if the hair covers the eyes or any airways
- A towel

Please note, no Bermuda or long shorts are allowed, as these can be dangerous. For reasons of safety the swimwear should be sufficiently tight fitting to allow the freedom of body and limb movement without causing unsafe water resistance. In terms of the legislation that governs this, we are guided by AfPE (Association for Physical Education) Safe Practice in Physical Education and Sport 2012 as well as Swim England (National Governing Body for Swimming).

It remains the policy of the School Swimming Programme that **jewellery** of any description should not be worn in the School Swimming lesson. It is important that **earrings** in particular are removed. The only exception to this rule is a medication identity bracelet. "AfPE 2.10.35 – personal effects, such as jewellery, religious artefacts, watches, hair slides and sensory aids including glasses, should always be removed to establish a safe working environment".

Goggles are also only permitted for medical reasons. Parents must produce a letter from either a Doctor or Optician to state that a child has a medical condition and is required to wear goggles in the school swimming lesson. Once again this policy is in place for safety reasons:

"AfPE 2.11.34 – Swimming goggles are recommended when swimming at competition level and for extended, regular training sessions. They can help to maintain the required body position and improve vision through the water. In contrast, within short curriculum swimming lessons (typically 20-25 mins) for beginners, or for single, short races in school galas, goggles are not considered necessary."

AfPE 2.11.5 – Students learning to swim or improving their swimming ability often do not swim in straight lines, and as a result, they might get close to, or come into contact with, other swimmers. If goggles are worn, any contact with others (e.g. the failing arm of a beginner learning a new stroke) might result in injury to both the swimmer wearing the goggles and those who are not. Feeling confident and safe in the water, and swimming underwater, should not be dependent on wearing goggles, neither are goggles designed for such activity, as the eye pressure cannot be relieved."

If you have any questions or queries on any of the matters above, please contact your child's class teacher or the school office who will be happy to assist or direct your question/query to the relevant person.

Yours Sincerely,

Lee Knowles
Sports Coach

Michael Davenport
Deputy Headteacher

Examples of appropriate tight fitting swimwear:

Girls:



Boys:

