ST. MERYL SCHOOL

Learning, growing, achieving, TOGETHER

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Swimming for Years 5 & 6

Dear Parents,

Swimming will be starting once again next term for pupils in Year 5 and 6 from Wednesday, 17th September through to Wednesday, 19th November (9 sessions).

We are lucky to have been given the opportunity to swim at the newly opened swimming pool at The Centre in South Oxhey. The children will be walking to their swimming lessons. To ensure children get their full lesson, the staff have asked for children to come to school with their swimming kits under their uniforms so that they can change quickly upon arrival. Of course at the end of the lesson, the pupils will be able to change out of their swimming kits and back into their uniforms.

The cost of swimming is £27.05 for the 9 sessions payable via Parentpay by Wednesday, 10th September. This works out as £3.00 per session. This covers the cost of entrance to the pool, swimming instructors and insurance at the pool.

Swimming is part of the P.E curriculum and therefore compulsory. We receive **NO** additional funding for swimming, which is why we have to ask parents to pay. We always make a slight loss on swimming because the cost to parents is already subsidised by the school. However, in recent years we have started to make much more substantial losses, in excess of £500, due to some parents not paying. This shortfall has to be covered by the school-money we could be spending on resources for the children and support staff salaries.

I hate to be so blunt, but unfortunately this is the climate in which schools are operating these days. I am sure you will have heard news reports of parents being asked to pay for pencils, pens and even toilet roll in some schools. Fortunately we are not in such dire straits as this but we do need to make sure we have sufficient funds coming in to help us meet our commitment to providing quality swimming instruction for our pupils. I must therefore urge all parents to pay please. I would add that as we are now walking to the pools, the cost is greatly reduced, as in the past we also needed to account for weekly coach hire. I do feel that the cost this year is very reasonable.

All children will need a waterproof coat on swimming days as well as their swimming kit. All children need a swimming hat, and of course, a towel. No bikinis please.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Davies
Head Teacher