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21st March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers of Birch Class,

Swimming Lessons at White Oaks Leisure Centre – Birch Class

We are pleased to have been able to secure swim lessons at White Oaks Leisure Centre for all of our classes throughout the academic year. For Reception, this will be for half an hour, every Wednesday afternoon for 12 sessions, in the teaching pool. The children will have three swim teachers from White Oaks, as well as two staff members from St. Paul's. The first session for Birch class children, will be on **Wednesday 17th April 2024** and the last session will be on **Wednesday 10th July 2024**. We will travel to and from White Oaks via the school minibus.

White Oaks Leisure Centre have asked all schools to book a minimum of 12 lessons. They have found that children make far better progress with their swimming when they swim across two terms consecutively. The results of what the children have achieved will be sent to each parent. **Please note that all children need to wear a swimming hat to take part in swim lessons. These can be purchased from White Oaks for £2, or you can buy your child their own swim hat, which they must bring and wear each week.** Staff will help the children to put on their swim hats. A great tip for making this easier is to put talc inside your child's swim hat each week, as this then helps the hat to glide on more easily.

Reception children are entitled to a free school meal. On swim days, the children will have their lunch slightly earlier in their classroom, so their food can settle in time for their swim lesson. Caterlink will provide the children with a packed lunch of a cheese or ham roll, carrot and cucumber sticks and a cookie with a piece of fruit. **There will be no hot lunch served for Reception children on swimming days. Please let Mrs Doherty know if your child would like a school packed lunch of a ham or cheese roll and this will be provided for the duration of the 12 weeks of swimming.** If your child does not require a school packed lunch, the alternative is that you provide your child with a packed lunch for your child on swim days.

The cost of the sessions will be **£52.00** per child, which covers the hire the teaching pool, three swimming instructors and transport to and from the Centre. The children will receive a total of 12 swim lessons, which equates to approximately £4.33 per swim session, including travel. **Payment should be made via our School Gateway platform, under 'Birch Class April-July 2024 Swim Lessons'. To ease the cost of the swim sessions, we have set-up the payment to be paid in increments for you, but you must pay for all 12 sessions even if your child does not attend all of them, as school will be charged.** We will leave the payment open until the end of June, which will be **Sunday 30th June 2024**, which gives you four months to spread the payment.

Please note that it is a national curriculum expectation that all children 'must swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres'. Therefore, the expectation is that ALL children should attend swim lessons. Please let Mrs Doherty in the school office know as soon as possible, if there is any reason why your child cannot attend.

At the end of their swim lessons, children will quickly rinse under the shower with water, no shampoos or shower gels are allowed. Please ensure your child brings the following items in a suitable bag:

- **Boys** – swimming trunks, a towel, and a swimming hat are mandatory. Goggles are recommended.
- **Girls** – a one-piece swimsuit, a towel and swimming hat are mandatory. Goggles are recommended.

Please let your child's class teacher know your child's swimming ability; you can put a note in their contact book in preparation for their first swimming lesson. During their first lesson at White Oaks, they will be assessed and grouped, according to their swimming ability.

Yours faithfully

Mr James Johnson
Head of School