



10<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Birch Class,

**Swimming Lessons at Fairfield Leisure Centre – Birch Class**

As an introduction to swimming at school, we are pleased to have been able to secure swim lessons for our Reception class, this will be for half an hour, every Wednesday for 6 sessions, in the teaching pool at Fairfield Leisure Centre, Lowfield Street, Dartford, DA1 1JB. The children will have two swim teachers from Fairfields, as well as two staff members from St. Paul's, getting into the pool with them each week. The first session for Birch class children, will be on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026** and the last session will be on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026**. **Please note that parents/carers are not permitted to attend.**

We will travel to and from Fairfield, via the school minibus. Our school minibus **DOES NOT** require your child to use a booster seat, as the seatbelts are fully adapted to move up and down and sit in the correct place on a child's shoulder, which isn't the case in a regular car.

**Please note that all children need to wear a swimming hat to take part in swim lessons.** These will be provided by Fairfield Leisure Centre, on the first lesson that the children have with them. Staff will help the children to put on their swim hats. A great tip for making this easier for your child, is to put talc inside your child's dry swim hat each week before their lesson, as this helps the hat to glide on more easily.

The cost of the sessions will be **£26.00** per child, which covers the hire the teaching pool, two swimming instructors and transport to and from the Centre. The children will receive a total of 6 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 Swim Lessons June-July 2026'**. To ease the cost, we have set-up the payment to be paid in increments for you, with a minimum amount of £1, but you must pay for all 6 sessions even if your child does not attend all of them, as school will be charged. We will leave the payment open until **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026**, 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.

Closer to the start date of the swim lessons, please let Mrs Doherty know your child's swimming ability. However, they will be assessed during their first lesson at Fairfields and grouped accordingly.

Yours faithfully

**Mr James Johnson**  
Head of School