



10th January 2024

Year 5 Swimming Lessons

Dear Parent/Carer,

As part of National Curriculum requirements, I am pleased to inform you of your child's swimming lesson provision for this academic year. At Churnet View Middle School we regard swimming as a highly important part of their school life and believe that swimming is vital in a child's development. Not only do pupils learn the techniques to access the sport, but they also gain essential life skills which will not only benefit them now, but for the rest of their lives. Also, it can be a vital lifesaving skill. We want to instil a love of water to our pupils, but also ensure of their safety.

All pupils in year 5 are required to swim. Like previous years, the swimming lessons will take place in a portable swimming pool on the school site. Pupils will take part in an intense block of daily 30-minute swimming lessons for two weeks.

The dates that your child will take part in the swimming programme will be:

Week 1 – Monday 22nd January- Friday 26th January

Week 2 – Monday 29th January -Friday 2nd February

The portable pool is 10 metres long and is heated and placed under a marquee. As well as our teaching staff to support, the sessions will be lead by a qualified swimming teacher and will have a lifeguard poolside at all times.

Pupils will be initially placed into groups of 12 that they will swim with. They will be collected by a member of staff who will escort them to the PE changing rooms. It is advisable, where possible, that pupils come to school with their swimwear **under their uniform**. If this is a problem, pupils can change in the cubicles in the PE changing rooms which have been allocated for swimmers.

The students will change out of their uniform leaving just their swimwear. Pupils will require a dressing gown to wear over their swimwear and suitable footwear (flip-flops/crocs) as they move to the swimming pool. Pupils will also require a towel and swimming cap. A full kit list is provided at the end of the letter. Once pupils arrive at the swimming pool, they will remove and store their gowns, footwear and towels in an allocated space before entering the pool to begin their lesson. At the end of the lesson, pupils will quickly towel dry before returning to the PE changing rooms where they can fully dress back into their uniforms. It is important that pupils have a spare bag to place their wet swimwear and towel. Staff will be on hand to support pupils. Here pupils will require **underwear**. Pupils will then return to their lessons.

Headteacher: Mr S D Fryer

Churnet View Leek Staffordshire ST13 6PU. Tel: 01538 384939

Email: cvm.office@ttl.org.uk Website: cvm.ttl.org.uk

Churnet View Middle School is part of The Talentum Learning Trust. The Talentum Learning Trust Ltd is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. Company number: 9999238 Registered office address: The Talentum Learning Trust, Westwood College, Westwood Park, Leek, Staffordshire, ST13 8NP

We believe that whilst this maybe an unorthodox way of delivering our swimming programme, it will not only ensure greater progress for pupils to develop their swimming skills, but also limit disruption to classroom lessons throughout the year. It will also increase swimming time as there is not time lost due to travelling to an external provider. Time Swimming provided pupils with an amazing swimming service last year for which all pupils made great progress.

We understand that some pupils maybe weak swimmers or less confident than others, but we please encourage you to support us and ensure your child takes up this opportunity. We understand that it may be quite challenging to have kit available for all the two weeks but we please ask you to assist us with this. It is a National Curriculum requirement that all pupils, by the end of key stage two, are able to swim 25 metres confidently without the use of an aid. Pupils will be assessed on their ability to meet the following criteria:

- Pupils ability to swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of 25 metres.
- Pupils can use a range of strokes effectively [for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke].
- Pupils can perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations.

If pupils pass these National Curriculum requirements before the two weeks is complete, they will not be required to carry on with their lessons. All lessons provided are free, we just ask that **ALL** pupils have their swimming kit for **each day** for two weeks.

If there are any issues, please contact the school or your child's class teacher. Alternatively, please feel free to contact myself. Please find below the kit list previously mentioned. It is vital that all pupils take part as swimming is a key area of the PE National Curriculum. We are sure you will be pleased that your child will have the chance to develop his/her swimming skills. If there is any reason why your child **cannot** participate in the swimming lessons for medical or any other reason, please complete the **opt out** form attached by 15/01/2024. Please click on the link at the bottom of this letter and complete electronically. If you choose to opt your child out of the swimming lessons, the school will be under the assumption that they can meet the National Curriculum swimming criteria.

Kit List

Swimming trunks or costume (one piece), towel, flip-flops/ crocs, swimming cap, underwear, wet clothes bag, dressing gown.

If your child needs to use goggles, please could you send a note to clarify this. If your child uses an inhaler, please ensure that your child brings it with them to every session.

Thank you
Yours faithfully,

Mr O Simpson

Head of Physical Education

Swimming opt out form: <https://forms.office.com/e/xjt2me4WHM>