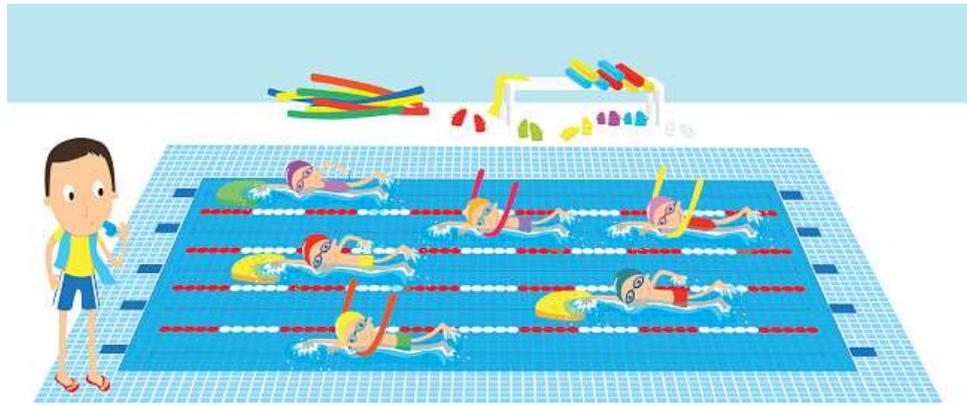


Dear Parents and Carers of Owls, Finches and Linnets,

All schools must provide **swimming** instruction either in key stage 1 or key stage 2. In particular, pupils should be taught to: **swim** competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres, use a range of strokes effectively [for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke.



The children's next school always provide a term of swimming, free as part of the curriculum and continues to do so, therefore we do not have to provide swimming as part of our curriculum. In Liverpool a very small number of Infant schools/departments offer swimming this a voluntary activity. We know some of the children already attend classes and parents have said that the extra practice with school has been useful. Infant schools near to us do not offer this opportunity which makes this special for our school At the end of the sessions when the children are juniors they are assessed against the National Standard as indicated above. Linnets will swim first in the Autumn term, Spring Finches and Summer Owls.

Swimming was introduced as an extra activity for the children 10 years ago and as an extra activity there has always been a voluntary monetary contribution. The children are taught in a class group and as the session progresses they are taught in smaller groups matched to their ability which gives a really good ratio, they enjoy doing this activity with their classmates. We are fortunate to be allocated the Picton Aquatic centre for these lessons. In previous years there have been up to 2 pupils from the year group who have not attended swimming for a number of reasons other than financial. We are grateful to SIPFA who subsidise this activity each year by £10 per child making the 10 sessions £50 this year. If any parents have financial issues, please make an appointment to see me to discuss. Some children may be chosen to attend the Infant Swimming gala each year and our school does very well in this event.

If more than 5 children in each class **do not want to take part** we will have to cancel this activity for the class. The children who do not attend stay behind work with the other Y2 classes on work they are familiar with, no new learning is covered at this time.

I understand this is a financial commitment from parents and carers but feel that overall, children benefit greatly from being with their classmates for this kind of activity and there is more chance they will succeed at the National Standard in their next school..

Kind regards,

Ms R Thomas

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Please return to school as soon as possible

Thank you.

Name of child:

I do not wish my child to attend swimming sessions

Signed: Parent/Carer