

MAYESPARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Head teacher: Ms E Davies



10 March 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to explain the importance of swimming lessons as I have had conversations with parents recently who are concerned that the children are going swimming in the cold weather.

As long as the children are dressed appropriately for the weather, going swimming and walking when it is cold should not cause any issues. The teachers will ensure that children are allowed to use the hair dryers after swimming if needed.

Learning to swim is an important life-saving skill. If your child is able to swim competently this may save their life in the future. It is also a legal requirement for all pupils to learn to swim as part of the National Curriculum. The school has paid over £4,000 for these lessons to ensure that children can “swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres” (click for [here](#) more details). Last year, only 62% of children were able to swim competently by the time they left Mayespark. It is imperative that we strive to do better this year.

I hope that, having understood the above you can see that missing sessions due to the weather is not an option for the school.

Should a child need to miss swimming for medical reasons, this should be put in writing to the school with an explanation of why the child should not take part.

If the medical need is long term (more than 2 sessions), it is expected that a medical referral to a GP is made to ascertain a diagnosis or advise, on medical grounds, whether a pupil should be exempt from swimming on a long-term basis. Such an exemption would not be agreed solely on a request from a parent, but should be supported with professional medical clarification.

If your child is absent on the day they go swimming, without medical evidence, this may be recorded as unauthorised absence.

Whilst we wish to support parents and meet their specific requests with reasonable steps, it is not possible to exempt children from the National Curriculum.

Yours faithfully

Ms E Davies
Headteacher

