



The Redeemer Church of England Primary School

We are really excited to be beginning the Pools to School programme on February 20th for 3 weeks. Below is an FAQ to give information on the programme. If you have further queries please talk to a member of staff in school. We will also be talking the children through how swimming will work in a special assembly tomorrow (07.02.24).

What is Pools to School?

'Pools to Schools' is programme across the UK. Pools to School set up a heated pool (with a covering marquee) on the school grounds which is then used for swimming lessons. It is run by a team of expert staff with over 20 years' experience in the sports industry.



Why Pools to schools?

We believe that this programme will provide high-quality lessons that all children can access and will be able to make great progress in. Lessons are conducted in groups of 12 for 30-40 minutes, with children in the pool for the duration of the lesson, accompanied by 1 swimming teacher and 1 lifeguard who can also act as a coach/assessor. In the last academic year, we evaluated our previous provider and sought advice from schools who have previously used Pools to School in the area leading us to decide this was the best way forward for our children.

Which children will be swimming?

Most of the lessons will be aimed at children in Years 3,4 and 5 with some time also given to pupils swimming in Year 6. There will also be swimming times planned in for some of our SEND children in Years 3-6. We have traditionally aimed swimming lessons at Upper Key Stage Two (Y5/6) and with the Pools to School programme we hope to have Lower Key Stage Two (Y3/4) children becoming more confident swimmers.



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What does my child need?

Swimming Cap, Swimming Costume/Trunks/Towel are essential. A dressing gown, flip flops (or similar footwear) can also be brought to be worn when moving from school to the pool and getting changed. We do have limited spare stock of dressing gowns and swimming caps that children may borrow on the day. Goggles are not required but can be worn at parent/carers discretion.



When will my child be going swimming?

A letter will be sent out with the exact days that your child (Y3,4,5,6) will have their swimming lesson and will need their kit in school.

How will children be grouped?

Children will be placed in groups where we and the swimming teachers feel they will make the most progress. This may change as the sessions go on, parents/carers will be informed if this is the case.

Where will my child get changed?

We will be sectioning off a room for children to get changed with privacy. Boys and Girls will not be getting changed in sight of each other. A limited amount of spaces will be available for solo changing.

Will my child miss lessons?

Yes, for up to one hour, depending on how long it takes to get changed. Class teachers will be aware of students missing some lessons and will adjust timetables and curriculum planning accordingly.



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Where will the swimming pool be set up?

The marquee and swimming pool will be set up outside the Year 6 Classrooms. The swimming pool is heated and filtered, and is managed by the Pro Sports Coaching Team.

Will it be secure?

The exterior of the marquee has been positioned so that it can be monitored by CCTV. It is secured to the ground and the marquee is constructed of heavy duty material.

Did you know swimming and water safety are part of the National Curriculum?

According to the National Curriculum, 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]
- perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations

Water safety is a vital life skill, which is why it is a mandatory part of the curriculum for PE at primary school. The curriculum says pupils should be taught to perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations.

More information about another local schools experience with Pools to Schools can be found in the article from the Lancashire Telegraph below:

<https://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/20094489.darwen-primary-school-swimming-pool-erected-car-park/>