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15<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Dear Families

We are writing to share details of our swimming arrangements for the summer season ahead and into September. **We will confirm dates soon**, but we are *hoping* to head for 11<sup>th</sup> May to give the children from Years 2 to 6 around 12 weeks of swimming.

We are delighted that we have the opportunity to offer this very valuable and exceptional resource to our children, so that they can learn the important life skill of swimming and we are the only mainstream school in Andover with a pool!

### When will my child swim?

The Year Groups will swim on the following days:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6

### How can I support the federation?

The cost of running the pool is incredibly high. Apart from filling the pool, it is heated and chemically treated each day to ensure it is always clean and hygienic. And this year, our water costs are rising once again putting the pool's expenditure far beyond the day-to-day budget.

Therefore, we are asking families once again to support this precious federated resource for a donation; we hope you feel able to support our request for funding.

### How do I make a donation? Open Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Please support us with a donation of **£20** per child from **Years 2 to 5 (inclusive)**. Over the last three years, we have had at least 12 weeks of swimming which makes it £1.66 per session.

For parents with more than one child at school, we are asking for an additional **£14** donation for the second child and an additional **£10** donation for any more children in the family.

As swimming is a part of the National Curriculum for Year 6, we do not ask for a donation. However, if you do wish to donate, you can still choose to do so on Arbor when you consent.



To make your donation, please go on to your child's profile on Arbor and within 'Activities', select 'Clubs'. You will then need to register for 'Swimming Consent & Donation'. This will then allow you to make payment.

We need your consent for your child to be able to swim, this includes Year 6.

By registering for Swimming Club, you will have provided consent.

**If we do not receive your consent, then your child will not be able to swim.**

Please click on the link below for a step by step by step guide on how to provide consent and make a donation: <https://balksburyfederation.co.uk/letters/>

### **What will my child need to bring for their swimming sessions?**

Each week, your child needs to bring in their swimming kit on their Year Group Day (see page 1 of this letter).

**Their swimming kit must consist of:**

- Swimwear:
  - o Boys must wear trunks or shorts (above the knee)
  - o Girls must wear a one-piece costume
- A swimming hat if your child (boy or girl) has hair that is shoulder length or longer. These are available in various shops around Andover
- A towel
- Goggles (optional)
- An extra layer - even on warm days the children can be cold after swimming
- A waterproof bag to keep everything in

### **What if my child wears earrings?**

Just like in PE, we follow the Hampshire County Health and Safety requirements for jewellery. So, children cannot wear earrings or other jewellery when swimming and it would be advisable if your child finds it difficult to remove earrings, that they leave them at home on the day of swimming.

Please note: If your child cannot remove earrings because they are still within the time frame of not being taken out, **you must** send your child to school with the earrings taped with micropore tape (bought at a chemist). Elastoplast or Sellotape **must not** be used. The federation does not keep and cannot provide tape for your child.

The children are always excited when we get to the summer term and are able to use our pool again. We are very pleased to be able to offer this important life skill again this year.

Kind Regards  
The Leadership Team