

SWIMMING AT CRANFORD PARK ACADEMY

At Cranford Park we offer regular swimming as part of our P.E curriculum. We have made the decision to offer swimming lessons in both years 3 and 4 as we recognised that for lots of our children our lessons are their first experience of being taught to swim and being comfortable in and around water and feel this is best done at an early stage of their lives. In both year 3 and 4 the children go swimming for intensive blocks where they swim daily. We have found that this has benefited the children by having an increased opportunity to spend time in the water, in turn allowing more time to develop confidence, competence and knowledge of water safety.

Lessons are taught to the national curriculum guidelines of swimming lessons and teachers are supplied by the swimming pool. The children are assessed and put into ability groups in the first session by the swimming teachers. This helps with confidence for the many beginner swimmers whilst ensuring those with some prior experience can make good progress.

All children have an opportunity to swim and we have 1:1 support adults of SEN children who enter the pool with them to make them feel more comfortable and allow them to gain the most from the lessons. We also hope that by introducing year 3 and 4 children to swimming earlier we will get families enthusiastic and seeing the benefits of swimming. In this way, we hope children will be keen to encourage their parents to take them swimming regularly building on the skills they have learnt during lessons in year 3 and 4. We will then give children in Year 6 a further opportunity to swim to enable as high a number as possible to pass the national standard for Year 6.

All children are encouraged to take up swimming outside of school with some students joining clubs and representing them in competitions. As a school, we enter a team into the Borough swimming competition and have had much individual success over the years.

All children are required to wear either a one-piece swimming costume (girls) or swimming trunks (boys). They must also have a swimming hat (essential) and bring their own towel. All jewellery must be removed prior to the swimming lessons. If a pupil is well enough for school, but not well enough to swim, a letter from their parent/guardian is required

