



Oughtibridge Primary School

Naylor Road, Sheffield, S35 0HG | tel: (0114) 286 3167

email: enquiries@oughtibridge.sheffield.sch.uk | web: www.oughtibridgeschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Helen Adams | Deputy Headteacher: Gemma Shelton



Friday 10th July

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Oughtibridge Primary School, we are committed to ensuring that all children learn to swim and achieve the National Curriculum expectations for swimming and water safety before they leave primary school. As part of this commitment, the school has invested in and funded **two blocks of swimming lessons** for all Year 4 pupils. Swimming is an essential life skill and, particularly in light of the recent increase in reports of drowning incidents nationally, it is more important than ever that children develop confidence in the water and learn how to keep themselves safe.

The National Curriculum expectation is that all children can swim at least 25 metres by the time they leave primary school, use a range of strokes effectively and perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations.

Y4NH children will attend swimming lessons at Hillsborough Leisure Centre on Thursday afternoons. Lessons will commence on **Thursday 10th September 2026** and will run for 9 weeks, with the final session taking place on **Thursday 12th November 2026**.

Y4AN children will attend swimming lessons at Hillsborough Leisure Centre on Thursday afternoons. Lessons will commence on **Thursday 19th November 2026** and will run for 9 weeks, with the final session taking place on **Thursday 28th January 2027**.

During their first lesson, children will be assessed by qualified Sheffield Swimming Service instructors and placed into groups according to their individual needs and current level of attainment. Following the initial 9-week block, pupils who have not yet met the National Curriculum standard will be offered a further **9 or 18 lessons between February and July**. By funding this additional provision, we aim to ensure that every child has the opportunity to reach the expected standard before leaving primary school.

The bus will collect the children from school at **1.15pm**, and they will have lunch as normal before leaving. Children are expected to return before the end of the school day, although timings may occasionally vary.

Any children who are not attending swimming lessons during these sessions will take part in a PE lesson in school and will not miss any of their PE entitlement.

Please ensure that your child brings a swimming costume and towel on the dates they have been allocated lessons. These should be brought in a bag large enough to hold their dry clothes while they are swimming.

The swimming service asks that girls wear a full swimming costume rather than a bikini. Boys' swimming shorts must end above the knee. Children who are not wearing appropriate swimwear will not be permitted to take part in the lesson.





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The swimming service recommends that children do not wear goggles. If your child requires goggles, a consent form must be requested from the school office and returned before lessons begin. Please note that, unless there is a medical need, children will not be permitted to wear goggles during the first lesson as this session is used for assessment purposes.

Long hair must be tied back and all jewellery removed. Please do not allow your child to wear earrings on swimming days.

Thank you for your support in helping us ensure that every child develops this important life skill and gains the confidence and skills needed to stay safe in and around water.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Nicki Holt
Year 4 teacher

