

Woodthorne Primary School

Woodthorne Road South
Tettenhall
Wolverhampton
WV6 8XL



Email: woodthorneprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Web: www.woodthorneprimary.org

Headteacher

Mr T Hinkley

Chief Executive Officer

Mrs A Cheema



Part of Perry Hall Multi-Academy Trust
Company Number: 08566185

Tel: **01902 558544**

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Swimming 2021 / 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Many children learn to swim outside of school but for some, primary school swimming will be the only opportunity they have to learn these vital life-saving skills. That is why it is very important for us to ensure we provide the best possible swimming and water safety provisions for our Woodthorne pupils.

Since 1994, swimming and water safety has been a statutory element of the National Curriculum for Physical Education, which means that every 11 year old should leave primary school with the skills to keep themselves safe while enjoying swimming with friends and family.

Each pupil is required to perform:

- Safe self-rescue in different water-based situations
- Swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25m
- Use a range of strokes effectively, including front crawl, backstroke and breast stroke

Research has consistently shown throughout the UK that only half of pupils meet the required standards so that is why attendance for each swimming lesson is so important for all pupils. I can appreciate that in very exceptional circumstances, your child may be unable to attend one of the sessions. Please inform school as soon as possible.

I would like to inform you that swimming lessons for the next academic year will take place every Tuesday afternoon with myself (Mrs Collins) and Splash Swim School at Kings School. Year 5 and 6 will attend a term and Year 4 for half a term to allow confidence to grow and provide an opportunity for children to make substantial progress. Please take note of the following timetable so that the children can be prepared. Where possible, ear piercing is to be avoided as no jewellery is allowed to be worn whilst swimming (with the exception of religious bangles which have to be covered with a sweat band).

We look forward to another year of improving the skillset of swimmers at Woodthorne

Yours Faithfully,
Mrs Collins (Swimming Coordinator)