ST JAMES
C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
DREAM • BELIEVE • LEARN • ACHIEVE

Headteacher: Mr Chris Booth
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"With God, there is no limit to what you can do. There is no obstacle you can't overcome. Through Him all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

Friday, 9th October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Due to its success, I am delighted to inform you that we have continued to invest in the 'Pools to School' initiative, working alongside Elite Swimming. This means we will have a marquee set up on the KS1 playground containing a 9.8m x 5.5m heated pool for the children to access lessons with **a fully qualified professional instructor and lifeguard present at all times.**

The marquee will be set up during half term, and the lessons will commence the week beginning 2nd November for 4 weeks.

- Year 4 and Year 6 – Monday 2nd Nov – Friday 13th Nov
- Year 3 and Year 5 – Monday 16th Nov – Friday 27th Nov

The swimming programme teaches children how to be safe in and around water, as well as teaching them how to swim. The National Curriculum states:
"All schools must provide swimming instruction either in Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2. Pupils should be taught to swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres, using a range of strokes effectively, such as front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke and perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations."

We believe that swimming lessons should not only teach children the key skills they need to stay safe in the water but should also inspire children to swim more often to help them stay fit and healthy.

We are aiming for **all children from Year 3 to Year 6** to be included in the lessons, with an opportunity for some additional lessons before and after school for those who require additional support. To enable your child to gain the most from their swimming lessons, we require your support. There will be no cost to parents.

What should be packed in Their Swimming Bag?
Your child should have one of the following to wear in the water:

- One-piece swimming costume for girls
- Swimming trunks or tight-fitted shorts above the knee for boys.

They will also need:

- A swimming hat has to be worn by all pupils in the pool at all times. These will be provided by the pool providers. However, children are allowed to wear their own if you choose.
- Towel
- A separate plastic bag within your child's school bag for their wet clothes and towel.

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- Comb or Hairbrush
- Jewellery is not permitted to be worn in the swimming pool and should be left at home.
- Please ensure your child's clothing is clearly labelled.

Goggles
The use of goggles is not recommended and is actively discouraged. Part of the programme is teaching children how to be safe and confident in and under the water. By not using goggles, this allows your child to grow their confidence. However, they may be permitted for more confident swimmers (goggles must conform to British Safety Standards and must not cover their airways).

All teaching aids, such as Noodles, body belts and kickboards, are provided.

As a parent/carer, you play a vital role in encouraging your child to swim and learn about water safety, survival and lifesaving.

Here are some things you can do:

- Talk to them to grow their water confidence
- Go along to family fun swimming pool sessions in leisure centres.
- Talk about water safety know-how
- Ensure they have what they need to make the most of their lessons.

Medical Conditions and Illness
Please make sure your child's class teacher is aware of any medical conditions, and ensure your child has the correct medication in school to support these conditions if required.

We are excited about this new opportunity for the children, as I am sure you are too. If you should need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or myself.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Whitton
(PE and Sports Lead teacher)