



**Copthorne**  
Primary School  
All Saints Road | Bradford | BD7 3AY

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07.10.2021

### Year 4 Swimming Classes

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you are aware, children in Year 4 will start swimming lessons on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October. At Copthorne we want to ensure that all pupils leave primary school being able to swim, enjoy swimming and know how to be safe in and around the water. Learning to swim is a requirement of the National Curriculum and an essential skill that your child needs in order to stay safe.

**Attendance at lessons is not optional and forms part of children's curriculum requirement.**

Lessons will take place at Shipley pool and children will attend in class groups. The Department for Education specifies that schools should not separate pupils **for any lessons** by reference to protected characteristics such as sex, race or faith while at school.

*'In a mixed school, any separation of pupils of either sex that denies them the choice or opportunity to interact socially, or to interact in an educational setting, with pupils of the other sex is likely to involve subjecting the pupils to a detriment because of their sex. This will be **direct discrimination** and **will be unlawful** unless it falls within one of the statutory exceptions contained within the Equality Act, **even if done for religious or other bona fide reasons.**'*

In order to meet this requirement, we are sending children in Year 4 this year, then Years 3 and 4 the year after (2022-23). After that (from September 2023 onwards), we will send just Year 3. All Exceed schools send mixed sex swimming groups to meet this requirement.

Children are able to wear full swimwear and may wear costumes that go down to the knee if they so wish. Children will change separately in different changing rooms.

Failure to attend school for swimming lessons will be considered an unauthorised absence. Under section 7 of the Education Act 1996, parents are responsible for ensuring their child (of statutory school age) receives efficient full-time education that is suitable to the child's age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs the child may have. Failure to ensure regular attendance will result in a fine being issued.

Please ensure that your child wears their swim wear underneath their uniform, they must also bring a towel and swimming cap to school each Friday. If your child does not have a swimming cap, one can be purchased at a cost of £3.00 from the swimming baths.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully





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*S. Ngenda*

**Stephanie Ngenda**

Head of School



*Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow!*

