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STATUTORY NATIONAL CURRICULUM SWIMMING LESSONS FROM SEPTEMBER 2024 **YEAR 5 – COMPULSORY – SEPTEMBER UPDATE**

At NJA, children in Year 5 take part in Statutory National Curriculum Swimming Lessons, which is a requirement for **all** children, including those with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND).

These lessons **START THIS WEEK** and will take place on:

- **Tuesday – 5OB** (note: 5OB's swimming lesson does not finish until 2:30pm so they will aim to leave the pool for 2:45pm, to be back for home time, at 3pm. Please be aware this may be slow to begin with. Many thanks for your understanding.)
- **Thursday – 5TG**
- **Friday – 5EW**

As the National Curriculum states, by the end of Key Stage 2:

Swimming and water safety

All schools must provide swimming instruction either in key stage 1 or key stage 2.

In particular, pupils should be taught to:

- *swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres*
- *use a range of strokes effectively [for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke]*
- *perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations.*

Children cannot be withdrawn from swimming by parents as swimming is a statutory part of the National Curriculum – it is the same as an English and Maths lessons and so a school is within its rights to insist that a child participates and parents have no legal right to take action.

We **must** have medical evidence (e.g. letters, notes etc from the doctors/hospital) to agree to a child being withdrawn from swimming lessons; this will be agreed by the Headteacher.

On the allocated day, below, please can you ensure that your child brings to school their swimming costume, one piece for girls and trunks for boys (no Bermuda, loose or long shorts). If your child would normally use goggles these can be used but will be the responsibility of the child. Also, a swimming cap is recommended.

If your child comes to school already in their swimwear, please ensure he/she packs spare underwear. Also required is a plastic bag for the wet clothing.

Please make sure all medical details are up to date as inhalers/medication must be taken to the poolside otherwise the child will not be able to swim. We will be contacting those parents/carers relating to medical and/or additional requirements before the end of the academic year.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Welsh
Headteacher