



Swim4Life

Newsletter

March 2022

We would like to welcome you to our first newsletter of 2022 and also our first newsletter in over 2 years. This newsletter is full of key information that will keep all parents updated on all they need to know about our Swimming Lesson programme.

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Programme Development

We have been working closely with Swim England on a number of programme developments which we are looking to implement across all 4 pool sites to further enhance and benefit our swimmer and their progression in the early stages. From April 1, instead of having a joint stage 1&2 class we will be working towards splitting these out in order to provide separate classes, we have piloted this at Abraham Darby and the transition has been successful, therefore we would like to do this across our other 3 sites as we believe that this will help the children feel more encouraged in their progression and achievements at a much earlier point in their swimming journey.

This change may affect some classes across the 3 pool sites in terms of children may have a different teacher but at their normal swimming time, the respective sites swim team will communicate with parents on any individual changes that maybe required. Those parents who use the home portal to track progression may also see a slight change to the relevant stage in terms of removing stage 2 criteria from stage 1 which will affect your child's percentage, please be reassured this does not mean they have been marked down and their progress will still be recorded as it was.

We will also be rebranding our Under 5's lessons to Duckling's, as part of this development once a child has completed all the duckling awards they will no longer have to wait until they are 5 years old to move up to Stage 1 and they will be marked for progression on 100% completion of the relevant duckling stages.

If you have any questions about this process please email the Swim Co-coordinators at your respective site who will be able to answer your queries.



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Price review

We would like to make all parents aware that a 3.5% price increase will be applied to all our Direct Debit and Quarterly membership packages from April 1, with exception of Swim4Life members at Newport Swimming Pool which remains closed for building works. The work to amend the direct debits to reflect the price increase for the Swim4Life members across our other 3 pool sites will be done automatically.

Swim4Life members who have chosen to pause their swimming lessons whilst Newport Swimming Pool is closed need take no further action at this time.

Awards / badges

Don't forget, each time your child completes a Stage or distance in their lesson, you can purchase a badge and certificate at the reception of your designated pool site, if you do achieve an award you may receive a notification of this via the parent HomePortal where you can track your child's swimming progress.

Newport Swimming Pool

As you may be aware in December 2021, the council announced a programme of work at Newport Swimming Pool to reduce the amount of utilities consumed and the carbon footprint of the building as part of the council's commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030. In addition to this work a programme of essential maintenance works was also commissioned.

Maintenance work is still being carried out on the swimming pool and changing facilities and these will remain closed until at least the end of May 2022 to allow the works to be fully completed.

The weekly lesson programme will continue at Shortwood Pool and for swimmers who have temporarily moved to one of our other pools. Swim4Life members who have chosen to pause their swimming lessons whilst Newport Swimming Pool is closed need take no further action at this time.

We will write out to notify all Swim4Life members prior to the pool reopening in respect of lessons restarting at Newport Swimming Pool.

Whilst we are confident that the works will significantly improve the experience of using the facilities for our customers we apologise for the inconvenience and disruption caused and if you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us at leisure@telford.gov.uk



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Wellington Leisure Centre

We have some new teachers delivering across our successful programme at Wellington, and we would like to express a warm welcome to Olivia and Eve to the contracted swim teaching team, in addition we are also pleased to add that after a very successful Level 1 Swim England teaching course we have up skilled Georgia, Iwan, Ethan and Connor, who also join the team.

The teaching team at Wellington are happy to provide feedback and discuss lessons with parents so please leave your details at reception and they will contact you after lessons have finished. Please refrain from interrupting the delivery of the lessons and if you have an urgent or time sensitive message for the instructor, please inform reception and they will relay it for you right away.

We would also like to remind all swimmers using Wellington to please make use of the lockers to store their belongings and not leave them in the cubicles as this restricts the amount of changing facilities on offer and can also cause congestion in the changing rooms. The lockers are plentiful and available for a small cost of 20p.

We would also like to remind parents / carers that they are not permitted onto the poolside via the changing rooms or the spectator's gallery. This is to avoid contamination of dirt and debris from footwear but also to ensure the safety of all swimmers / teachers and to promote the independence of our young swimmers. A lifeguard and teaching assistant is always on hand to aid those children who are new or a little nervous. We also request that if your child is under 8 years of age you remain in the spectator gallery for the duration of the lesson where we can reach you if needed.

Oakengates Leisure Centre

Some of our parents will be aware that a couple of our regular teachers have left to go and further their careers and we wish them all the luck, these have been replaced with some new teachers who have recently passed their Level 1 Swim England teaching qualification so we would like to congratulate Megan, Keira, and Annabel and welcome them to the Oakengates Leisure Centre swim team. We are also upskilling some of our Level 1 teachers to level 2 and they are attending an upcoming course so we wish them all the very best.

If your child/children are having their first swimming lesson and are a little nervous about entering the poolside please ask for assistance from either reception prior to the lesson or ask one of our leisure assistants to support please refrain from entering poolside.



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Abraham Darby Sports Centre.

We would like to say a warm welcome to our new Swimming Co-ordinator Gemma Price who is now overseeing our Learn to swim program with the support of some new teachers who have gained their Level1 Swim England teaching qualification Holly, John and Morgan

To ensure we look after all our swim members if you ever have any enquiries regarding your child's progression please leave your details with reception, then we can work with the teachers to get the answers and feed them back to you without their lesson being disturbed.

We would also like to remind all swimmers using Abraham Darby to please make use of the lockers to store their belongings and not leave them in the cubicles as this restricts the amount of changing facilities on offer and can also cause congestion in the changing rooms. The lockers are plentiful and available for a small cost of 20p. Also if parents need to pop on to poolside can you please take off your outdoor shoes, we advise parents to only come on as a last resort so children gain confidence away from their parents or guardians.

Half term is fast approaching please be on the lookout for our timetables during these two weeks packed with additional swimming sessions for the whole family to enjoy.

We hope you have found this first newsletter informative and your child/children are enjoying their swimming lessons.

The Swim Team

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