



Riverside Primary School

Ferry Road, Hullbridge, Hockley, Essex, SS5 6ND

Headteacher: Mrs Claire Smith

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Friday 12th June 2026

Dear Parents in current 4 & 5,

Swimming Lessons – Years 5 & 6 - Autumn 1 2026

I am writing to let you know about our swimming curriculum for your children which will commence in Autumn 2026. Since 1994, swimming and water safety has been a statutory element of the national curriculum for physical education in England. This means that every 11-year old child should leave primary school with the skills to keep themselves safe while enjoying swimming with friends and family. Swimming is the only sport to be included within the national curriculum physical education programme of study. As a school, we feel we are in a privileged position in so much that we can offer the national curriculum and beyond due to having a pool on site.

The outline of the timings is in the table below.

When	Who	How long?	Focus
April to May	Year 3 and 4	30 mins per week	Swimming Curriculum
May to July	EYFS, Years 1 and 2	20 mins per week	Water confidence and early swimming curriculum
Sept to Oct	Years 5 & 6	30 mins per week	Water Safety and Life saving skills

This year's contribution for Years 5 & 6 will be £42.00 per child (which equates to £7.00 per 30 minute session).

The school asks for your contribution for the swimming lessons for your child/ren to be made by **Friday 4th September 2026**.

Payment can be made in three installments of £14.00 each which are payable on the following dates:

- 1st Installment - Friday 17th July 2026
- 2nd Installment - Friday 14th August 2026
- 3rd Installment - Friday 4th September 2026

Contribution

Whilst we appreciate the contribution can be a lot to find, we ask you to bear in mind the following:

- The school considers itself very fortunate to have a swimming pool – many primary schools do not. Some schools take their children off-site to distant pools with transportation costs being met by the parents and much learning time being lost.
- The contribution represents very good value in terms of cost per lesson. We understand other local schools ask for a much higher contribution towards swimming lessons for their pupils.
- Contributions for swimming lessons go towards the overall cost to maintain and run the swimming pool which will increase significantly with the rise in energy prices.

We ask for contributions early to give parents every opportunity to make their payment. It also gives the school the opportunity to approach those parents, who have yet to make a contribution, before swimming commences, and make a whole school decision (based on the financial position) as to whether swimming can take place.

Should it be hard for you to meet this cost or you wish to pay by instalments, we ask that you contact the school office as soon as possible where we can work with you to accommodate this

Gift Aid

If you are a UK taxpayer and would like to make a Gift Aid contribution in your donation, at no extra cost to yourself, please complete the [linked form here](#).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Claire Smith
Headteacher

