



BOTLEY C of E (Controlled) Primary School
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Headteacher: Mr J Cooil B.A. (Hons) PGCE QTS
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18th March, 2026

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to confirm that we are beginning to make plans to open the school swimming pool for the second half of the summer term from the 1st June. This will enable children from right across the school to undertake swimming lessons. Further correspondence will follow nearer the time regarding the exact details of when your child will be swimming and to provide you with all of the required information.

Setting up and running the pool is extremely expensive in terms of staff training, water and electricity bills, chemicals, hiring a swim teacher and other ongoing costs. The school does not get any additional funding from the Local Authority to support with the operation of the pool and every single penny has to come directly from the school budget. It is for this reason that the decision was taken to close the pool back in 2017. Fortunately money was raised to upgrade it and the pool has reminded open.

We would politely request a minimum £15 donation per child to fund the use of the pool for this year. This is, I would suggest, a very reasonable amount for us to request for up to seven swimming lessons. We plan to allow the children to swim every week during the second half of the summer term, but of course we have strict operating procedures that we need to follow (e.g. in adverse weather conditions the children may not be able to swim and may unfortunately miss a session – but this happens rarely and we always try to make up the sessions later in the week).

If you would like and are able to donate more than the minimum amount this would be very helpful and very much appreciated as it costs around £10,000 to run the pool for the half term of curriculum provision. The school is willing to put in the majority of this money but cannot afford all of this without parental support. If insufficient funds are raised we may need to consider if swimming can be undertaken this year. Economically it does not make sense to open the pool, but of course swimming is an absolutely invaluable skill for the children to have and could literally save their lives. Whilst some children swim outside of school it is also true that many children do not get that opportunity.

If you are able to make a donation, we would be very grateful. Donations can be made via Arbor using the **School Shop** tab which can be found at the bottom of your Arbor home page. It would be appreciated if any donations were made as soon as possible so that we can begin to prepare the pool if we know it will definitely be used. If we raise insufficient funds to run the pool any donations will of course be returned.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Cooil'.

Mr. J. Cooil
Headteacher

