



26<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Swimming in Year 3 and Year 4

As a result of a serious incident in Manchester a few years ago, which resulted in 2 young Manchester boys drowning in the canal, swimming has formed a compulsory part of the lower KS2 curriculum in all Manchester Schools.

We appreciate that some children do not like the water or want to go swimming but this compulsory lesson forms a part of Manchester City council's safeguarding strategy for young people and so, in order to help to keep our children safe, children at Barlow Hall go swimming two terms out of three in both year 3 and year 4 to help to ensure that skills learned are not forgotten.

Unfortunately some children do get upset at the thought of swimming lessons and staff, both at the pool at the Hough End Leisure Centre and from school, do all they can to reassure the children. The sessions are taught by professionally trained staff who ensure that the children are fully supported as they learn this essential life-saving skill.

We would like to remind parents that all children in Year 3 and 4 at Barlow Hall must attend swimming lessons when it is their classes turn to do so. If your child is unable to go swimming for a medical reason please inform your child's class teacher, frequently missed lessons must have medical proof from either a GP or hospital doctor to excuse them from this vital part of their curriculum.

Please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher if your child has any worries or fears about swimming with school as they will be able to ensure that they have the support they need to help them through their sessions.

Yours sincerely

Jayne Kennedy  
Head Teacher