



London Borough of Havering
ENGAYNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mrs S Sankey: Headteacher
01708 223492

October 2020

Dear Year 1 Parents/Carers,

I have been made aware of a few concerns and worries the children and yourselves are currently having about their swimming lessons. Hopefully I can allay some of these anxieties so the children enjoy the pool which is such a fantastic resource for Engayne to have!

It is such a shame that many of the year one children missed out on their taster swimming lessons in reception. This is when I get introduced to the children and we spend some time together in small groups to visit the changing rooms and pool at Engayne and also learn about the basic rules and expectations for swimming.

USE OF ARMBANDS

When children first start swimming (in reception) everyone starts off with 3 armbands, this is because I have to assess the children myself and it keeps everyone safe. Once I have seen the children swim I can then start removing armbands if necessary.

I am always encouraging the children to remove armbands if I think they are able to, this is always with the agreement of the child so they feel comfortable. When removing armbands, I always tell the children that if it is too difficult without them then they can put the armbands back on.

DRESSING AND UNDESSING

While teaching I cannot always help the children with ties, top buttons etc. It would be really helpful if you were able to practice these things at home so it makes it a bit easier and quicker after they have swum. It is a bit tricky to teach a group with another group needing assistance to dress or undress. We all got used to T shirts and joggers while in lockdown!

NOISE LEVELS AT THE POOL

During the lesson, it can get too loud so I have a whistle I use to get the children's attention. Unfortunately, there are times when I blow my whistle and the children continue to talk and then I have to raise my voice to be heard. I do not like to shout but a louder voice is necessary sometimes to keep everyone safe.

THINGS TO HELP

I know at the moment it is very hard to take your children swimming but there are a few things you could try from home when it comes to water confidence.



Many children are a bit reluctant to put their faces in the water, if you have a bath maybe try and get your child to practice putting their faces in the water and blowing bubbles out of their noses and mouths.

I hope this information clarifies any queries you currently have. I want all the children to enjoy swimming and to look forward to their swimming lesson each week.

Regards

Miss Birdsey and Mrs Wyman