HEATHCOAT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Broad Lane
Tiverton
Devon EX16 5HE

Tel: 01884 252445
Email: admin@heathcoat.devon.sch.uk
www.heathcoat.devon.sch.uk

Interim Headteacher: Carly Wilkins

HPS: Helping People Succeed

Friday 6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to provide an update regarding swimming provision for our Year 4 and Year 5 pupils this academic year.

Schools have recently been informed of a significant reduction in PE and Sport Premium funding nationally. As a result, we have reviewed our plans to ensure that the funding available is used in the most effective and sustainable way, while continuing to provide high-quality swimming opportunities for all pupils.

We are pleased to confirm that all Year 4 and Year 5 children will continue to access swimming lessons this year. However, instead of each class receiving seven weeks of one-hour lessons, pupils will now attend 12 weeks of 30-minute swimming lessons, beginning next week on **Friday 13th November**. Their last session will be on Friday 12th February 2027. We appreciate that this differs from the information shared previously and apologise for any confusion this may cause.

Following careful consideration, we believe this revised model offers several benefits. Shorter sessions can help children remain focused and engaged, while a longer programme provides more opportunities to practise, revisit and consolidate key swimming skills over time.

To further support children's learning, concentration and wellbeing, we have reviewed arrangements with Active Mid Devon for school swimming sessions. Following this review, parents and carers will no longer be able to watch lessons from the viewing area during school swimming sessions.

The leisure centre has advised that this is the approach taken by other schools using the facility, as it minimises distractions, supports effective supervision and enables staff and swimming instructors to maintain a safe and focused learning environment. We understand that this is a change to previous arrangements, and that some parents may have enjoyed watching their child swim, however we appreciate your understanding and support as we place children's learning, wellbeing and safety at the heart of our decisions.

To keep transport costs to a minimum, Year 5 pupils will travel to the leisure centre by coach and walk back to school after their swimming lesson. Year 4 pupils will walk to the leisure centre, take part in their lesson and return to school by coach. Parents and carers of children with additional medical needs will receive separate communication regarding transport arrangements.

The cost to parents will be £60.46 (£5.03 per child per week). Payments should be made through your Scopay account. You can either pay the amount in full or if you wish, by instalments. Please can all payments be made by Friday 12th February 2027. Unfortunately, refunds will not be available if your child misses a session due to illness or if they are late to school.

Thank you for your continued support. We are confident that these arrangements will provide a positive swimming experience and help develop children's confidence in the water, swimming skills and understanding of water safety throughout the year.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Carly Wilkins
Interim Headteacher

All Personal Data is collected and processed in accordance with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Full details can be found for all the Personal Data and Special Category Data we collect and process, in our Data Protection Policy and our Privacy Notices which can be found on our website www.heathcoat.devon.sch.uk

Devon County Council