



Dear parents,

I am writing in regards to our swimming pool and the costs to the school of running it. Recently I spoke with Parent Council about parental contributions and the importance they have to the school. It was felt that the wider parent community would benefit from hearing the details about the pool, its costs and the part that parental contributions make.

I wanted to emphasise that the school does not make a profit on the pool and that parental contributions do not cover the costs incurred by running it. Private lessons and parties subsidise the cost of the pool in order to keep the level of parental contributions down and any short fall is covered by the school.

I also wanted to emphasise what a fantastically good deal the children of West Leigh get with regards to swimming. Our children are lucky enough to have weekly swimming lessons from Year 1 upwards and as a result, we produce confident swimmers who are able to be safe in the water for the rest of their lives. Other schools that do not have pools are only able to offer a few weeks of lessons throughout the year and miss out on lesson time because of the need to travel to a community pool.

Finally, I wanted to address the amount we request as a contribution. We try very hard to keep the cost of swimming down. Last year, when inflation was skyrocketing, the cost of our lessons remained the same. We know the financial pressures that families feel and are aware of the additional burden that such a cost can present. At £48 a year, it works out at less than £1.50 a week which is remarkably good value, especially when compared to the amount requested by other schools in the area and the price of private lessons at local pools.

This year we currently have a deficit of £10,000 for the pool. This is a huge amount of money which needs to be found from school funds at a time when budgets are under pressure. This means difficult decisions need to be made in other areas which directly affects the resources available to the children.

We know that swimming is not everyone's priority and we know that everyone's financial situation is different. However, if we want to continue to be able to run this fantastic facility, we need the help of the school community. If you are unable to contribute for personal or financial reasons, please let me know and I will always try to help whilst being completely confidential.

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to the swimming pool. We really couldn't do it without you and it gives the children of West Leigh a fantastic opportunity which other schools do not receive.

If you have not yet contributed this year, you are still able to do so via Parent Pay.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mr M Aggus

