

Dear all

After almost 6 weeks of club swimming we have reviewed our COVID-19 procedures and processes and want to share our lessons learned so far with you. We ask all parents & Carers to read and digest this information carefully and also share this update with your children who swim with us.

1. Generally things have gone well with only a few minor hiccups – As a club we are extremely proud of the way all of our swimmers have stepped up and adapted to our new routines, even our very youngest swimmers have been mature and well behaved and more than anything we hope they have had fun swimming again after the long break. They are a credit to themselves, you and the club.
2. As the weather turns cooler (and wetter) we need to move the club desk back indoors. We have established a new route into and out of the building which allows for circa 16 swimmers to line up inside (socially distanced) before they swim and from **Monday 7th September our a new entrance and exit process will be in place**. Club staff will be on hand to show swimmers the route. If parents also want to see and walk this route please arrive 10 minutes early for your child's swimming session and we will walk you through the route in and out of the leisure centre.
3. The "drop and go" routine will remain in place for parents for the foreseeable future and at least until the end of 2020, which we know is disappointing, but at least from today you will be able to see your child into the building and observe how our processes work first hand even if you cannot watch them from the balcony.
4. **The club desk will be reintroduced from Monday 7th September and swimming session fees can be paid for again in cash on a pay as you swim basis (£3.20 per session) as they were prior to COVID-19, We encourage as many parents as possible to "prepay" for their swimmers if they can in blocks of either 5 swims at £16.00 or 10 swims at £32.00 respectively. In the longer term we will look at how electronic payments can be collected on a pay as you swim basis.**
5. Our swimming bubbles are working OK and all swimmers who requested moves to alternative sessions have been accommodated. As of 7th September the swimming groups are now fixed and permanent for the foreseeable future (in exceptional circumstances we may review individual swims) As a result the lane allocation of swimmers may also have changed. Your child will be told which lane to swim in during week commencing 7th September.
6. **Punctuality** – Please be punctual when arriving for swimming sessions, our processes rely on our swimmers avoiding contact with other leisure centre users when their classes start and finish. Our club sessions start at 7pm and 8pm during the week and 8am & 9am on Saturday mornings. Please arrive 10 minutes before the start of swimming so we are ready to get changed and get into the pool quickly
7. Please arrive at the leisure swim ready and have your swim wear underneath your clothes (onesie, PJ's or loose fitting tracksuit) so you can change quickly
8. Please bring a small bag with you (Yes - we know you all love your new club back packs but right now we have no room to store them on poolside)

9. As the weather turns cooler we no longer expect you to leave wet swimwear on when you leave the leisure centre after swimming, instead we recommend you remove your swimming costume or trunks in a cubicle and then slip on your PJ's, Onesie, or loose fitting tracksuit and put a turban towel around your hair before going home to shower and get dressed properly.
***** Parents/Carers please note swimmers have only 9 cubicles to get changed in** and we have 3 groups of swimmers who need to get dressed after every swimming session. Please encourage your swimmers to be quick when getting dressed. **A quick towel dry before dressing in a onesie or PJ's** will only take a few minutes and allow the club swimmers to all get through the changing rooms within 20 minutes at the end of their swims, after which the changing rooms are cleaned and opened up to the public.

10. Remaining financially viable - Current guidance from Swim England and our Leisure Centre operator determines we can only have circa 25 swimmers in our 20m pool during club sessions, and our cost to hire the pool and Lifeguard is circa £66.00 per hour. Even with a volunteer workforce we are sure you can do the sums and work out we need to have at least 21 swimmers in the pool at every session in order to possibly remain financially viable (pool hire alone) Therefore if your child is sick or not able to attend their allocated swimming session for any reason we would really appreciate it if you could let us know in advance with as much notice as possible. The aim of the club is to ride out this pandemic for as long as necessary but we need your help to do this and if we can utilise all of our swimming slots for those looking to swim more than once a week we have a better chance of surviving in the long term. **You can text Alan on 07929 575 199 if you will not be swimming.**

Finally – We **thank you for your patience and understanding regards all of the points above and for your support getting our club swimmers back in the pool.** As the nights draw in and get darker we find we are a little stretched during the change over between weekday evening sessions at around 8pm, **if any of you are able to help out** directing swimmers into the leisure centre and checking them back in with parents after they have swam please let Alan, Sharon or Jean know.