

# Rushmoor Youth Swimming



A member of Rushmoor Swimming Association

Newsletter—July 2015 Issue 12



## Welcome

We welcome new pupils to our club, we continue normal lessons throughout the school holidays.

Lessons are only for 30 minutes a week, if you can find the time to swim other than on a Thursday evening it is beneficial to you.

## Keeping up your skills

For all pupils it is important to keep working on your aquatic skills, it does not mean just strokes it could be just playing in the water so if you are away from the area try to work on the key skills: -

Aquatic breathing, Balance, Buoyancy, Co-ordination, Movement through water, Orientation, Rotation, Sculling and Treading water.

## Swim for £1

Rushmoor indoor pools are offering "Swim for £1" during the August break for registered children, under 8's need to be accompanied by an appropriate adult. Registration £2/child. Make the most of this offer. More information at the Centre or on their web site.

## Course Fees

From next term course fees, including badges (end of term and one distance badge gained at our distance swims attended) will rise to £25 per term.

## Important dates

**Term start dates: -**  
5th November 2015  
10th March 2016  
7th July 2016

**Assessment dates: -**  
October 15th & 22nd 2015  
Feb. 25th & Mar 3rd 2016  
June 16th & 23rd 2016  
October 13th & 20th 2016

## Distance swim dates: -

Distance swim for up to 1500m / 1 mile—29th October 2015  
Long distance swim, 1000 metres plus—17th December 2015

**No swimming, pool closed, 24th & 31st December 2015**

## Last term

Last term we had 125 pupils in the 18 classes averaging just under 7 per class, with our current staffing this is about our maximum. Pupils were assessed as usual over the two weeks set aside for this purpose. 99 pupils were assessed of which 90 reached the require standard to progress, 9 were found not quite ready to proceed to the next step so will remain at the same level next term. Of the rest we have 5 pupils away with medical problems, we wish them well and hope they will be back soon, 17 were absent from the assessments, including the 5 with medical problems and were graded by their teachers 14 of these will progress to the next stage and 3 will stay at the same level. We had a low turnout at the distance swim on the 2nd July but those who attended did well.

## Summer staff meeting

Although a disappointing turnout we had a successful meeting and an enjoyable social with barbeque.

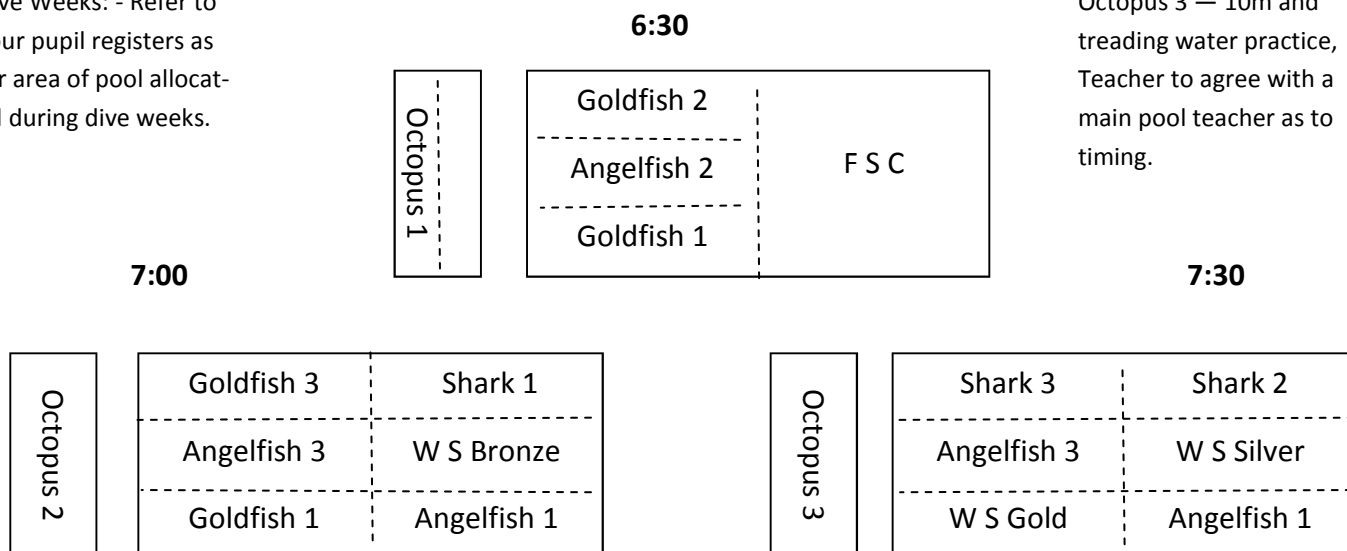
## Staffing

As a not for profit voluntary organisation we are finding it increasingly difficult to find people willing to give up 2 hours a week to help children learn an important life skill not taught in schools—swimming. Some schools spend a bit of time but most children who learn to swim do so outside school. If you can help contact the club.

## Pool plan for next term

Dive Weeks: - Refer to your pupil registers as for area of pool allocated during dive weeks.

Octopus 3 — 10m and treading water practice, Teacher to agree with a main pool teacher as to timing.



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## Course Fees

After saying we would remove pupils who have not paid after two weeks we still have a few late payers. If this continues this term, i.e. not paid by July 23<sup>rd</sup> from next term no pupil will be allowed to start lessons until payment is made.

Jackie currently allows some pupils to start before paying but this will stop.

Unless we have a valid reason for delayed payments we will find a child from our waiting list to cover unpaid places.

**Last term we were still chasing payments on week 10.**

## Child safety

In the last newsletter we placed an article mentioning a child was alone in the centre.

Last term we had the need to talk to a parent during lesson time, the child informed us that mum was shopping in Asda! We did not enquire how long the child had been on the poolside Or in the centre unsupervised?

Our staff are DBS checked but we cannot control who spectates, although if we thought there was an issue with a spectator we would contact the centre's management.

Parents are responsible for the safety and welfare before and after lessons, this includes changing areas and showers.

This was a chance encounter, we don't have to talk to many parents so how many more are not on the poolside leaving children to fend for themselves?

**Information**—Parents, if you would like to receive information and reminders by email, i.e. test date and times, unplanned pool closures etc. send an email to me saying "add to mailing list": -



## The Web

Visit us at: -

Our web site: [rushmooryouthswimming.org.uk](http://rushmooryouthswimming.org.uk)

Twitter: [@rushmooryouth](https://twitter.com/rushmooryouth)

Facebook: [rushmooryouth](https://www.facebook.com/rushmooryouth)



## Help—This is urgent if we are to continue.

We desperately need adult help on the poolside, we will be losing our Teaching pool teacher to university another taking a gap year, one of our other teachers will take over the teaching pool but we don't have any spare teachers.

We need regular adults to help on the poolside from more teachers, to those willing to assist with communications with parents, assisting teachers with equipment and controlling pupils and spectators on the poolside, shower & changing areas (where parent's fail to control their children).

For committed regular helpers we will fund training as required. We do not pay our staff, all are unpaid volunteers, we enjoy our work knowing that our pupils are gaining a very important life skill not covered by the national curriculum which will benefit them for the rest of their lives. Without more regular help we will have to consider reducing the number of classes.

Please contact Mick on the poolside or via our web site.

A full enhanced DBS check is required for all our staff

## Some of our General Rules

- 1 Parents are responsible for safety and welfare of their children prior to and after lessons.
- 2 For emergencies a parent or person with parental consent must be on the poolside during lessons.
- 3 Do not interrupt teachers during lessons.
- 4 Pupils should shower before lessons.
- 5 Overshoes provided by centre should be used on the poolside.
- 6 Do not obstruct the fire exit or exit routes.
- 7 Distance swims—reasonable strokes required above 100 metres.
- 8 Inform Mr Bright of any changes of information given on enrolment form
- 9 Clothes should not be left in changing cubicles during lessons, use lockers
- 10 Parents and spectators are to keep to the seated area on the poolside, **DO NOT** cross the area between pools or enter/leave the poolside from the changing rooms

## Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for: -

**Assistant welfare officer**—dealing with welfare and safeguarding issues, to take over soon as we will be losing our current welfare officer soon.

**Poolside supervisors**—act as diligent eyes to ensure safety on the poolside, ensure pupils and parents comply with centre's rules, answer questions from parents and move resources around the pool if required.

**Teaching assistants**—Assist teachers in running lessons

**Teachers**—teach children the aquatic skills needed as life skills. We teach the STA International Swimming and Water Safety Standards plus STA Survival Scheme 5 to 14 year olds.

We offer to pay the fees for courses required to carry out these roles subject to a signed contract that the volunteer/s will continue to work for a period of time after qualifying. Email [Chairman@rushmooryouthswimming.co.uk](mailto:Chairman@rushmooryouthswimming.co.uk) if you can help.

## Web Issue

This is the web issue—there are three issues of this newsletter, one for pupils which includes the enrolment form, one for staff with information related to current helpers and a web edition for general public. We don't know who reads this issue but it would be interesting to know—if you read this post a note on Facebook