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Kingfishers Swim School Newsletter
March 2024
Issue 9

Diary Dates

Subject to change. Keep an eye on the website/Facebook page/emails for any updates.

Monday 25th March – FUN SWIM WEEK

Monday 1st April – 3 week Easter closure

Monday 22nd April – Swim School reopens for Summer Term.

Monday 6th May – Invoices emailed for second half of Summer Term.

Saturday 18th May – Invoices due for second half of Summer Term.

Monday 27th May – Sunday 2nd June – 1 week half term.

Monday 3rd June – Swim School reopens for second half of Summer Term.

Week commencing 24th June – Assessment Week for Autumn term classes.

Monday 1st July – Invoices emailed for first half of Autumn Term.

Week commencing 1st July – Water Safety Week

Monday 8th July - FUN SWIM WEEK

Saturday 13th July – Invoices due for

first half of Autumn term.



Another term done. Well done to all of our super swimmers for your achievements this term.

For the second term running we have a record breaking number of 2 and 3yr olds graduating into Duckling and 1A classes after Easter. Their parents have been absolutely fantastic at taking that step back. We know how difficult this can be. Thank you for all your support.

Sending our heartfelt thanks to everyone for their kind words and messages when we lost a beloved member of our family this term. We really appreciate it. We are a family business and when something like this happens we have no choice but to close our doors. Thank you for your understanding.



Kingfishers Swim Schools are officially turning 30 this year!

Although we as a family have been teaching at King Edmund School for much longer... (see below!) Kingfishers as a private swim school has been around since 1994.

We want to mark this occasion so keep an eye out for developments.



Denise and her Dad

Dennis Bristow 1932 - 2024

Please ensure we have your up-to-date mobile number and an email address that you look at regularly.

Last minute changes of closures will be sent by text. This is a no reply service. Updates will also be posted via Facebook. Invoices will continue to be sent by email. Check we are on your safe list so we don't go into your junk folder. If you are expecting an email or text and you don't receive it, please let us know so we can make sure we have your correct details.

If you need to speak to one of the team, email denise@kingfishersswimschool.co.uk , sophie@kingfishersswimschool.co.uk or jordan@kingfishersswimschool.co.uk or message us on Facebook.

Reminder
Reminder

Kingfishers

Best Swim School in Rochford

 **BEST OF 2024**



Kingfishers Swim Schools have been voted the best in Rochford! As a small family business, we couldn't be prouder of this achievement. Thank you for all your support. Our website, reviews and policies were all analysed, and we came out on top! Link below.

<https://distinguishedteaching.co.uk/company/kingfishers-swim-school-447542368170-Rochford/?fbclid=IwAR2YlaPK5T0eBwA4T0vspP1iU8ASUvdNxJVzIwNKiQoZC3XEzzwO9HJOPP4>

We have also been recognised as an STA Swim Star Swim School and have been awarded the STA Mark. The STA are a regulated body for Swimming Teachers and Swim Schools. They are the main provider of the awards we use so you may recognise their logo.



We had to share how we run things at Kingfishers, from the organisation and planning of lessons to the policies we use. This is another

fantastic achievement that we are all very proud of.

Finally, we have been invited to take part in the National Children's Activities Awards 2024. The Awards recognise the groups and activities for children Nationally.

Keep an eye out on our socials for where to vote. We'd love to have your support. Thank you for everyone that has nominated us for the awards.



READ ALL ABOUT IT!



Check out this article from November 1980 when Denise's mum Eileen Bristow (wrong name in article of course!) was teaching at the King Edmund School.

This was when children started learning to swim much later than today.

Do you know Russell Goddard?

We wonder if he still enjoys swimming now.

PHOTO REPORTER

GIANT-SIZED Russell Goddard has passed a swimming test normally taken by youngsters 10 or three years older than he is.

Russell, aged four, of little stambridge Hall Lane, Rochford, is the youngest member of the evening swimming class at King Edmund School in Rochford.

To gain the Swimming Teachers' Association junior swimming badge he had to complete 25 metres swimming on his front and back and do other tests.

His teacher Mrs Iris Bristow, said: "Russell has only been swimming for a few months, but he passed with flying colours.

"I have never had a boy this young pass before. Most of the others are aged six or seven.

☐

"Russell is really good. He loves his swimming."

Russell first went swimming at Warrior Square pool in Southend two years ago with brother Christopher, seven.

But it was only fun which led him to the Swimming Teachers' Association junior swimming badge.

Mum Christine, a teacher, decided to take her lively four-year-old to watch brother Christopher in the water at the King Edmund school swimming club.

☐

She said: "He was so keen to get into the water the teacher allowed him in on trial for one night with all the older boys.

"He got on so well that he stayed in the class.

"That was before last Christmas and now he has been awarded his badge with Christopher who are more than three years older.

"He has no fear of the water even though when he is standing in the shallow end he is so small he has to wear arm bands to keep his head above water."

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EMPTY council homes, needing repairs, may be sold off for as little as £10,000.

Females and ladies on the waiting list will be offered them at cut price, despite a protest by a Corringham councillor.

The Thurrock Council homes, mainly in Grays and Thurstrey, have been standing empty awaiting improvements.

Now the council has decided to halt the improvements, sell the houses and let the new owners do the work.

The ruling Conservatives group claimed to improve main programme is 100.

But the Labour Council, Bob Wood, from Corringham, said: "It is unacceptable that people should be allowed to join the queue. In Corringham there are a waiting list of a lot of people for houses."

Denoting the home improve-ment plan, Deputy Mayor Peter M... said: "We are getting houses in some of the areas, but we can't wait with the people improvements in council properties which have to go ahead at present."

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Mums protest as 11 swim pools are shut



ANGRY: Protesters at the meeting.

ANGRY mums staged a protest meeting after the closure this term of 11 school swimming pools in South East Essex.

Nearly 300 people met at Rochford's King Edmund School, which has had its swimming pool closed, by Essex County Council, to present a 2,000-name petition.

Most were mums angry at the closure, but some were swimmers who had been hoping to enrol in the school's evening classes.

The protest was organised by Mrs Eileen Bristow, who has

taught swimming at King Edmund's for the past six years.

She said: "On Monday evening we would have started the classes if the council hadn't shut the pool."

"We had sent out our brochures stating we would be running classes before we knew of the cuts."

"A lot of people who turned up on Monday had come expecting to start swimming. When we told them they couldn't, they were not very pleased."

"Many mums are concerned about the pool and we decided to have a protest meeting to make our feelings heard."

People also came to the meeting to protest about swimming pool closures at other schools including

Greensward School, Hockley; Furtherwick Park, Canvey; Sweyne School, Rayleigh; and Benfleet's Appleton School.

They met Rochford Liberal councillors Derek Helson and Richard Boyd to present the petition.

Coun. Boyd, who is also a county councillor, will present the petition to the county council.

Mrs Bristow said: "The county council has told us it costs nearly £10,000 to keep just one pool open for two terms. We think the council has got its sums wrong."

"At King Edmund's the boiler that heats the pool also serves the science department and the kitchen.

There is no way it could cost that much.

"We want to make the council keep the pool open, even if it means raising charges."

Coun. Helson said: "This move seems to have been a panic decision."

A county council spokesman said: "Due to pay rises and cost increases, the council needed to save £2½ million this year."

"The only way to do it was to concentrate on education in the classroom and try to save money on extras such as swimming pools."

"I cannot see us changing our minds on this. We are trying to maintain the pupil/teacher ratio."

This article is from September 1981.

Essex County Council shut down a number of local school pools with very little warning back in 1981. It put swimming teachers out of work and children out of lessons. Where would these children learn to swim?

Denise's mum, Eileen Bristow, organised a protest and the rest was history. We are still swimming at the King Edmund School 43 years and many thousands of children later.

Each teacher has nominated
some students for swimmer
of the term.
Congratulations if you were
nominated!

SWIMMER OF THE TERM

The Nominations are in...

- George Doyle – for putting his face in happily now.
- Harvey Jowers – for always putting in 100%.
- Tegan Willis – for getting her front crawl arms to behave and go the right way round.
- Elijah Jones – for persevering with his swim, roll, swim, even though he kept getting water up his nose.
- Casey Brightwell – for his hard work and improved speed.
- Lukas Pepperell – for overcoming his fear of not wearing his armbands.
- Poppy-Mae Westron-Norton for regaining her confidence.
- Leo Brown – for always listening and trying his best.
- Sienna Passfield – for her perseverance with her forward somersault.
- Verity Layzell – for swimming with less discs.
- Oakley Stone – for overcoming his fears and jumping in.
- Matilda Scruby – for swimming without discs and trying hard in every lesson.
- Poppy Smallbone – for 100% effort and getting her front crawl bilateral breathing.
- Paige and Louie Holland – for being an absolute pleasure to teach and gaining confidence every week.
- Avery-Leigh Beagley – for his concentration and determination.
- Ariana Siciliani – for always smiling and trying to overcome her fears.
- Theo Baker – for never complaining even when he's not comfortable with his face in the water.
- Amelia Richards – for whizzing through her tick sheets once she'd mastered putting her face in the water. Quiet but always gives it 100%!
- Max Smith – for giving 100%, always eager to learn and practice.
- Aimee Briddock – for always making me smile with her unique ways of swimming. She always tries her best!
- Isla Read – for always trying to be better than her brother. Your teacher says you're a cheeky little munchkin that gives your best all the time 😊
- Lolade Keshiro – consistently trying her hardest.
- Jesse Lemon – for working hard to improve even when he is scared.
- Albert Cotgrove – for working hard every week to try and put his face in.
- Ariya Pacey – being determined in a more challenging class.
- Sophie's 10am Rising 3s class – for being really brave and working with the teachers, rather than Mummy and/or Daddy.
- Ralph Burkett – for turning into super Ralph with a burst of confidence. We are now well away!
- Wyatt Mayes-Macklin – for giving it 100% every lesson and making me smile every week.
- Chloe Thompson – for always trying her best and being a pleasure to teach.
- Amelia Teesdale – for being really consistent and trying her best every week.
- Nancy Fullarton – Always listening and making the best effort.
- Jaielle Valentine – for her positivity in everything she tries.
- Freddie Neighbour – Making the lessons fun for everyone!
- Freddie Cowburn – for overcoming his fear of the deep end.
- Alexander Kingston – for the most improvement.
- Cian Barron – for always trying hard and with a smile on his face.
- Oscar Burke – for gaining the confidence to put his face in!
- Alice Atkinson – for big improvements.





The Nominations continued...

Holly Tickett – for trying hard and moving up.

Ruby Edmead – for big improvements, well done!

Poppy Catling – for trying super hard to flex her feet on her breast stroke.

Wren Whitelock-Chaplin – for always trying hard.

Chimere Agunwamba – for persevering to achieve his handstand. Well done!

Deacon Harman – for good listening skills in his Duckling class.

Cara Mountier – for getting her face in, ready to move up.

Teddy Fullarton – for swimming independently without his armbands.

Keziah de Conceicao – for always trying her best and coping really well in her new lengths class.

Jude Aldridge – for giving it 100%.

Arya Gaundar – for getting her breast stroke timing right for Angelfish 1.

Finley Lisner – for moving through the levels quickly.

Alice Healey – for always trying her best.

Eddie Isaacs – for her enthusiasm in lessons.

Spencer Neumann – for trying extra hard to keep up in a higher level class. Well done!



for always listening and trying his best.

Well done Leo!