

Diary Dates

Monday 21st July - TERM TIME LESSONS END

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Monday 1st September – Swim School reopens for first half of Autumn term.

Wednesday XXX September – NO SWIMMING school open evening (date to be confirmed)

Monday 29th September – Invoices emailed for second half of Autumn term.

Wednesday XXX October – NO SWIMMING school open evening (date to be confirmed)

Saturday 11th October – Invoices due for second half of autumn term.

Monday 21st October – 2 WEEK HALF TERM CLOSURE

Monday 3rd November – Swim school reopens

Monday 24th November – Invoices emailed for first half of Spring term 2026

Monday 24th - Saturday 29th November – Assessments for next terms classes

Saturday 6th December – Invoices due for first half of Spring term 2026.

Monday 8th December – Fun swim and Photo week.

Monday 15th December – 3 WEEK CHRISTMAS SHUTDOWN



We hope you enjoyed your Water Safety Lessons last week. Don't forget to stay safe this Summer.

- STAY in arms reach of your adult.
- SHOUT for help if needed
- FLOAT to live
- OPEN WATER is harder to swim in than a pool – if you're kayaking/paddleboarding, you should be wearing a life jacket (not a puddle jumper or armbands). That's grown-ups too!
- DON'T be a statistic this summer.



Stay up to date!

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/kingfishersswimschool/>

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaChwUMiKLtS3XUq7llxgdQ>

Instagram [@kingfishersswimschool](https://www.instagram.com/kingfishersswimschool)

Kingfishers Swim School Newsletter

July 2025

Issue 13

Happy Summer Holidays!

Well done everyone for a great term. We've enjoyed watching all of your achievements this term. From getting your face wet for the first time, to swimming your 5metres, to swimming in a length class, to performing CPR in our rookies, it's been a good one!

Wishing you a wonderful Summer Holiday!

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.



Swim School Updates

The end of term came with some really hard decisions for us to make. We are having to reduce our under 3s numbers and general Saturday numbers moving forward.

We interviewed a number of potential swimming instructors and didn't feel any would give you the high quality lessons you expect from us, and we expect from our swim school.

Unfortunately, there is a Nationwide shortage of swimming instructors, and with our high expectations of qualifications and safeguarding, it has been almost impossible to recruit.

We have never been in it for high profits. The plan was to provide high quality lessons to as many children as possible, and losing as little places at swim school as possible.

But all is not lost. We are hoping to reintroduce these lessons when we can. We have built up the under 3s lessons over the last 7 years and have a long waiting list for these and some fantastic feedback over our methods which we are forever grateful for.

Thank you for your support. It really has been a gut wrenching decision to make. We have managed to offer as many of you a place as possible, and will continue to strive to provide as many of these lessons as we physically can.

Saying Goodbye!

We are saying good bye and good luck to Caitlin and Lizzie who are off on their next adventures to University and a full time job.

Both Caitlin and Lizzie started their journeys with us as young swimmers at Kingfishers. We've watched them learn to swim, grow and eventually become Aquatic Helpers at Kingfishers.

From there, both girls went on to complete their Swimming Teachers Qualifications. Their confidence and ability grew and both have been valuable members of the teaching team for the last 2 years. Good luck ladies, you will be missed!

Saying Hello!

We are welcoming Jessica to the teaching team as she completes her teaching qualifications in the Summer Holidays.

Jessica has a similar story to Caitlin and Lizzie, starting with us as a swimmer, before completing her Aquatic Helper certificate. Jessica has been an invaluable member of the Assistant team and we know she will make a superb instructor (just like her big sister Georgina, who some of you may remember). Please make her feel very welcome.

Kingfishers Charity Update

Reminder

If you're not yet on the WhatsApp group, follow the link in your email to stay in the loop!

We have been able to support a number of families this year at Kingfishers through our Charity Fund.

This year we have given £2748.34 in support to low income families, those with SEN that couldn't access regular lessons, pool hire and teaching staff/lessons to Yr 6 children in our local primary school that couldn't swim 25m and many more!

Thank you for supporting our charity events to allow us to do this. We have also applied for a number of grants and are hoping to be successful in gaining some more funding.

Funding break down for September 2024-September 2025

SEN	£2220
Looked After Children	£48
Low Income	£98
Pupil Premium/Yr 6 >25m	£384.34

Our next charity event will be a **sponsored swim event**.

Swim your next distance award (or further) for an amazing cause. We are hoping to open this up to as many people as possible, including adults and those not at swim school (although swim school families will be given first reserve).

We are hoping to run this event in the Autumn Term and dates will be confirmed.

Entry will be free, but you will be expected to raise sponsorship.

All profits from this event (after pool hire paid) will go directly into the Kingfishers Charity Account. All staff will volunteer their time and so will not be paid.



Summer Swimmer Spotlights!

'Last term, Teddy really struggled and refused to get into the pool on a few occasions. His anxiety

about swimming was really upsetting. We moved him from Hazel's class (following her advice) to Jordan's. He has been happily getting in the pool with Jordan and is super

happy with her. However, still very reluctant to put his face into the water and avoided any splashes to his face. It seems we have finally turned a corner. Not only was he happy to be splashed, but we couldn't actually get him ABOVE the water!! He was jumping into the

deep end, getting 'sinkies' off the pool floor, and swimming

so well

with his head under the water. He also did a handstand in the pool! Big Thank You to Hazel and Jordan for what they have done so far, and I'm hoping now Teddy can progress through the class levels.'



'My daughter began her swimming journey in September 2023, those initial first weeks were tough and she had no confidence and would cling to the edge of the pool and solely rely on her teacher to help her across! Fast forward to now and she has progressed well, getting lots of badges. She has just earned her 20m badge, swimming unaided up the deep end! Very proud of her and extremely grateful for the amazing staff (especially Denise) who pushes to get the best from the children but in the kindest way! Excited to see her continue to have fun and grow in confidence while learning such an important life skill 😊'

'We just wanted to share how proud we are of Sophie for achieving her 1000 metre badge! She swam the whole distance confidently without stopping and even finished faster than she expected. It's been amazing to see how her confidence in the water continues to grow from strength to strength.

She was also thrilled last week to do a proper dive from standing – a big milestone for her! Thank you so much for all the encouragement and support you've given her; it's really making a difference.'



'Freddy started in January and was so nervous, he used to hang off the teachers and wouldn't let go, sometimes crying. I nearly gave up but the last few weeks he's had Louise & he's developed so much he now swims alone with his armbands and is so chuffed. I am such a proud Mummy! Thank you'

'I am so proud of Lara and all that she has achieved over this last year at Kingfishers. She lost her confidence over the summer holidays and started to develop a real fear of swimming. But despite being afraid and nervous she didn't give up. She kept going and week by week she has started to look forward to lessons again and she can now swim without any aids with confidence and enjoyment. It has really taught her a lesson she can apply to any other area of life: keep working hard even when it's difficult and you can achieve amazing things! She has done so well. All down to the amazing teaching of course.'





'Brianna's confidence has grown so much in the water thanks to Kingfishers. We recently went to Butlin's where Brianna braved every water slide, as well as the rapids and she loved it so much! She also received her 25m badge which she is very proud of!'

'Physical skills like swimming don't come easy for Emily but after a year of trying so so hard to jump in so she could achieve her next badge, Emily finally gained the strength and confidence to go for it and take the leap. Emily has also come so far with her swimming skills, slowly improving week by week. So proud of her determination. A huge thank you to all the teachers who have encouraged and helped Emily in her swimming journey so far, you guys are amazing!!'



'Alex disliked the water and swimming so much that he would just sit on the step and refuse to get in before he started with kingfishers.'



We started lessons in September 2024 and we haven't looked back.

From the start he was made to feel so comfortable and given so much encouragement.

He has just got his 25m badge which I couldn't have imagined this time last year! Thank you to everyone, especially Sophie, who Alex loves having a little chat with at the start of class.'

'From petrified of water- even the bath to...'

Can't help but love this swimmer's journey. What an achievement!



'All 3 of our kids have swum with Kingfishers but Jesse's progress has been the most remarkable.

He always loved the water but would NEVER go out of his depth, hating going under and would just paddle or cling to the side/me.

His first lesson with the lovely Ann at 3 years old he screamed, clung to her like his life depended on it and hated every second. Within just 3 weeks she got him using arm bands, swimming across the pool and jumping in! And he never looked back.

advanced group with kids aged much older. He's represented the school in swim galas, and loves swimming!

We've had pretty much every one of the lovely teachers through the years and they've all been wonderful - can't thank them enough!

A huge well done to Scarlett for her win in the inter schools gala.

Scarlett won the breast stroke race with her super skills. That glide really does make you faster!

The most impressive bit... she wasn't even supposed to be competing, but stood in for a poorly friend and came away with the win!

Well done Scarlett, and thoroughly deserved.



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

SWIMMER OF THE TERM

The Nominations are in...

Zara Tickett - for always being brave
Rocky Saward - for being determined.
Ava-Rose Jolly - for overcoming her fears.
Omari Cuell - for trying his hardest to improve his strokes.
George Brooks - for improving his confidence.
Penny Peacham - for working hard to get her eyes in.
Arlo Sexton - for working hard to get his eyes in.
Tolani Busari - for always being enthusiastic.
Oscar Jerome - for trying really hard and always making me smile.
Tegan Whitwell - for improving so much this term.
Luke Glover - for his energy and always swimming his best.
Aimeé Briddock for working hard this term and mastering her skills in the water.
Jesse Quamina - for always being brave and conquering his fears.
The Rookies – for being an absolute pleasure to teach and passing their Silver 1 award.
Sophia Rankine - for swimming with her face in the water.
George Miller - for his perseverance with breaststroke this term.
Chimera Agunwamba - for his hard work and swimming his front crawl so beautifully.
Piper Pickett - for swimming without her goggles and having fun.
Mimi Hardwick-Charatan - for always giving it her all.
Elodie Balham - for improving her front crawl arms.
Amelie Bradford – for embracing the challenges of their lesson.
Ella-Rose Connelly - for embracing the challenges of their lesson.
Alyssia Osborne - excellent front crawl to pass the Stanley 7 award.
Eliza Dominique – excellent front crawl to pass the Stanley 7 award.
Quinn Reeves - excellent front crawl to pass the Stanley 7 award.
Joshua Pankhurst - excellent front crawl to pass the Stanley 7 award.
Remy Bevan - excellent front crawl to pass the Stanley 7 award.
Rosie Davis - for swimming without her bands.
Nathaniel Quamina - for trying his hardest to master the breaststroke technique.
Jesse Sharpe - for keeping up with the big boys and sometimes putting them to shame!
Albert Cotgrove - for conquering his fears and jumping in on his own.
Adelaide Stratton - for giving everything a go without hesitation.
Nicholas Stan - for his resilience and always providing 100%.
Aerin Ingles - for her progression, improvement and helping others in the class.
George Beeson - for helping and sporting fellow swimmers, especially in water safety week.
Jenson Perrotton - for giving 100% this term.
Henry Ridgway - for always trying his best.
Penelope Radbourne - for becoming brave and trying new skills.
Felicity Fey – for cracking the breast stroke breathing.



The Nominations continued...



Skye Clarke - for cracking the breast stroke breathing.
Tom Humberstone - for cracking the breast stroke breathing.
Luna Bobin - for always being happy and making us smile 😊
Emily Martin – for persevering and jumping in to achieve her Stanley 4.
Matty Ferguson - for giving it his all in swimming.
Thomas Gourley - for gaining confidence and not holding on to me now.
Rafferty Barrett - for gaining his confidence.
Jordan's Friday 4pm 1B class - for trying to swim without armbands and always giggling in the lesson.
Logan last - for gaining the confidence and putting his face in and wearing his goggles.
Jesse Lemon - gaining his confidence and trying his best.
Jordan's Saturday 9am Ducklings – for happily staying in the water for their whole lesson.
All of the toddlers who are now swimming without their parents in the water.
Alfie Neumann - for his all round improvement.
Asher Bailey-Sussman - who is only 27 months old, going in the water on his own and is listening to instructions like a superstar.
Isla Roche - for settling in quickly back to swimming after her break.
Rory Reid - for always trying his best.
Angie's 6.05pm Friday class – best breast stroke on Assessment Week.
Isaac Jones – for being a super helper on Water Safety Week. Also for making me smile every week and trying his best most of the time!
Reginald Jennings – for his effort in all of his strokes and really cracking swimming in the deeper water.
Cian Barron – for listening really well in his lessons.
Ezra Barton – for his effort and improvement in lessons.
Lilah Yelland – for always trying her best.
Grayson Bridgey – for super improvement in his front crawl. I'm sure we will crack it next term.
Ethan O'Loughlin – for a huge improvement in his strokes and super effort.
Lara Strothard – for regaining her confidence.
Zadie Anderson – for always trying her best and greeting me with a smile (and a story or two!)
Lola Burkett – for a huge surge in her confidence.
Gracie Wilson – for getting her face in and swimming a little on her front and back without aids.
Sophie's 12.35pm Level 6 class – for being the best way to end my working week. You girls are always a pleasure to teach.
Freya Wiggins – for the lovely, excited noises she makes each week and for getting braver week on week.
Darcy Hope – for her tenacity.
Mia Graciano – for good demonstrations and listening.
Elliot Schofield – for getting more confident and for all the smiles now.
Amelia Richards – for always trying her best and as a result does amazingly well, and always with a smile.



for always being happy
and making us smile!

Well done Luna!