



Spring Update

This newsletter contains important information. Please read it! Doing so could save you for example turning up to lessons that are not taking place due to events such as galas!

Term dates 2011

Term 3: 12 weeks

26 April to 24 July
excluding half term
(30 May – 5 June)

Term 1: 13 weeks

6 September to 11
December excluding
half term (24 – 30
October)

No Lessons

8 May due to
swimming gala

Badge date

Week beginning
6 June

Reminder

Please let Jacqi
know if your contact
details change



New improved Swimcats ladder launched

The new term will see the launch of an updated, fun packed Swimcats' ladder.

The new style will be waterproof, will include the national water safety code and, for those who might want to race in future, competition rules.

New fish images are being used and more activities added to some of the development stages.

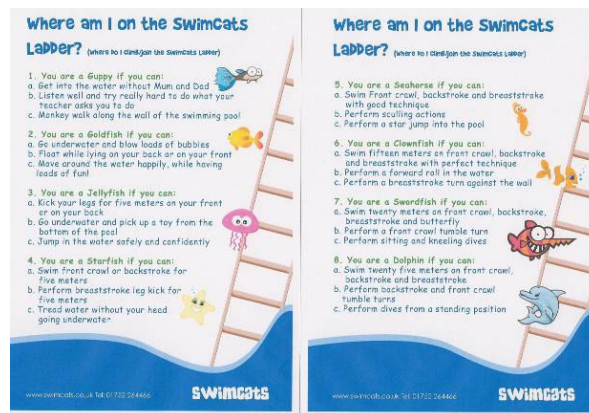
The new ladder captures the experience of Swimcats' teachers and

Gala to involve more schools and clubs

Sunday 8 May is when Swimcats' swimmers will be able to test their skills against other swim clubs and schools.

For the first time, the old Leanders gala, which Swimcats ran, is being replaced with a new fun competition.

Leander, Devonport Royals and Dinnaton Swimming Clubs have been invited to send swimmers as have Little Ducklings, Paul Davies and Devonshire swim schools, Plymouth Pavilions and Anthony School in Devonport.



the wishes of some parents for it to be more durable. All the favourite stickers showing the

progress of swimmers are being kept. All swimmers will get a new ladder at the start of term.

The gala will run from 10 am to 1 pm at Plymouth College and the top three in each age group will receive medals. All those taking part will get certificates showing their events and times.

Races, including a beginner's event, will be for those aged four and over and suitable for all abilities.

The aim is to have some friendly rivalry between swimmers from different clubs and schools. Entry forms can be downloaded from the Swimcats website (and accompany this newsletter).

If you can help on the day with timekeeping or marshalling, please speak to Jacqi or complete the section on the entry form.

Allow extra travel time!

29 May - Plymouth half marathon
19 June – Race for Life

Roads around the centre of Plymouth will be closed with some travel disruption inevitable.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Swimcats' customers can get a 5% discount in **Harbour Sports on the Barbican**

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ASA, STA and
Birthlight qualified
instructors

CRB checked

Trained in child
protection

New baby lessons in Cornwall

From Tuesday 26 April, a new parent and baby and toddler group is being run by Swimcats at the Whitsand Bay caravan park.

Sarah Linton, who currently teaches in Torpoint for Swimcats, will take the new lessons. The Whitsand Bay pool has excellent showers and changing facilities and is also very warm – ideal for babies and parents!

The Thursday parent and baby lessons at Garden Sport and Leisure in Torpoint are continuing and to book at either pool please contact Jacqi.

New Plymstock pool

Another pool has been added to those locations where Swimcats teach - Kenleys Day Nursery. To begin with most baby classes will transfer from the New Continental pool and some new sessions will be added with the view to soon running after school classes as well. All other lessons at New Continental will continue as normal.

Early warning – don't miss it

Parents are again being given the opportunity to have photographs taken of their children swimming underwater. A Cornish based specialist underwater photographer has been booked for 23 October at Madeline's pool in Ivybridge.

Details will be circulated nearer the date but if you want your children photographed make a diary note now please. In the meantime go to www.bubblepixels.co.uk to see the type and quality of shots taken by the photographer.

Curriculum challenge

Swimcats is pleased to be working with a number of schools to help children achieve the national curriculum goal of being able to swim 25 metres by the time they leave primary school.

The past term has seen children from Anthony School being taught at the Garden Sport and Leisure in Torpoint. The coming term will see children from Down Derry school benefiting from the Swimcats approach.

All change

Three teachers are leaving Swimcats.

Matthew Allen is opting for a life on the beach as a lifeguard; Michelle Mason has completed her occupational health studies; and in June, Dan Anderton will be taking a university placement year.

Matthew is replaced by Georgie Whiteley who has studied sports science and has recently been teaching in Kingsbridge. Another new experienced teacher is former competitive swimmer Amber-leigh Cunningham who will join us when Dan leaves in June.

Saving money

When Swimcats has to cancel a lesson, it raises a credit note and sends it to parents. From next term, to help us keep admin costs to a minimum; Swimcats will raise a credit but instead of sending it, will notify parents by text that they have done so. The credit will appear on statements.

Parents can get a copy of the credit note by email if Jacqi has their address. Keeping costs down helps us to control lesson fees.

Ivybridge

Swimmers having lessons with Madeline at Ivybridge will have a slightly longer break as lessons will not recommence until week beginning 3 May.