



Spring Update

Term Dates

20 April to 24 May

25 - 31 May (Half term)

1 June to 19 July

No Lessons

2 May - staff training

4 May - Bank holiday

20 June – Swimcats Penguin Gala (see over)

Reminder

24 May is Plymouth Half Marathon so if you have a lesson, please allow extra time for getting to the pool and for parking

Did you know?

Baby classes are available in Tavistock now on Friday mornings

Some spaces are still available for the popular shared sessions for 3 year olds



Swim School Member

Sign up to our “flip n fun” Sunday sessions

Swimcats is building on the success of its rookies lifesaving sessions by introducing another of the ASA's key skills – “flip n fun”.

After half term (from 7 June), each Sunday morning at Plymouth College, flip n fun” sessions will teach swimmers how to dive, beginning with gym based mat training before taking the techniques on to poolside and putting them into practice in the water.

The sessions will be fun, build confidence and ensure that children aged between 5 and 11 know how best to dive into water, safely.

Explaining the move, Jacqi said: “As the only swim school in Plymouth following the ASA's new national plan, we plan to spend half a term on each of the key water based skills covered by it. This coming term will see us run sessions for rookies and flip n fun and in

subsequent terms we will give swimmers the chance to try out water polo and synchronized swimming.”

Each session, which runs from 10.15 to 11.00, costs just £5 and swimmers can sign up for all sessions or just the half term on either rookies or flip n fun.

For Rookies wanting to improve their lifesaving skills, spaces are available at Madeline's pool in Ivybridge on a Saturday afternoon.

Be safe – follow the rules of the pool

Swimcats appreciates the help given to us by staff at the pools where we hold lessons – The New Continental, The Holiday Inn, Plymouth Pavilions, Meadowlands in Tavistock, High House and Plymouth College.

Without these pools, Swimcats would be unable to operate. So it is important that we all observe the rules laid down by the pool owners. This will prevent alienating other swimmers and will support the staff in making

sure there is a clean and safe environment for everyone to enjoy.

In particular the Holiday Inn has asked us to remind parents that:

- all swimmers must shower before entering the water
- shoes must be removed on poolside or blue pool shoe covers worn
- eating on poolside is not allowed
- children aged seven and over must change in the appropriate changing room or in the family changing areas.

Added value from Swimcats

For some time the Holiday Inn has offered Swimcats customers discounted rates for swim tickets.

The good news is that the New Continental has agreed to give the same offer. Books of 10 vouchers can now be bought at a discounted price of £20 for children and £40 for adults.

Don't forget badge week!

Monday 1 June sees the start of this term's badge week – when all swimmers get the chance to show how much they have improved - and get a badge to prove it!

Swimmers will be assessed under either the ASA's national plan stages, its distance awards or its water skills criteria and your teacher

will be happy to explain the badge under which your child will be assessed.

Badge week gives you as parents, relatives or carers the chance to see how well your child is doing while rewarding the children for their effort throughout the term.

Your child's teacher will

provide the appropriate order form for the badge and as in previous terms, the form will need to be completed and paid for before the badge can be ordered.

The cost is just £2 and it would help Swimcats if you could pay on line or by cheque as that avoids teachers having to have cash on poolside.

Swimcats Penguin gala date set

Plymouth Leander has again invited Swimcats to run its annual Penguin gala on June 20 at Plymouth College.

It gives our swimmers a chance to enjoy some competitive swimming against children of similar

ages and standards.

The entry form is on the reverse of the termly invoice and it costs just £2.50 for each swimmer to take part. Those swimming widths start at 10.30 and those racing lengths at 12.00.

There is lots of room for friends and family to watch so come and cheer the children on – it is a fun event!

Prize giving is on 7 July at Plymouth College, starting at 6 pm.

Thank you for understanding our difficulties

On behalf of Swimcats, Madeline and Jacqi would like to thank you all for your patience and understanding over the past term which has not been an easy one.

We appreciate the commitment shown by parents and are sorry that there has been more disruption than normal.

Swimcats tries to ensure continuity of teaching and to make sure that swimmers have the same teacher week after week.

Each teacher has someone earmarked to cover their session in the event of illness or the unexpected so that at worst a swimmer will only ever have two teachers. But over the past term this has not always been possible as illness has prevented this.

Hopefully with the spring and summer months ahead of us, the health problems of the past term will not recur and we look forward to seeing you all in the coming months.

Teacher changes

We would like to welcome two new teachers –Beth Savage and Jess Challinor. Both have been competitive swimmers and both have good experience teaching.

At the same time we will be losing one teacher. Sophie Collier will be heading to Australia in June to take up a teaching post there. We wish her every success and thank her for the work she has done with Swimcats.



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ASA qualified
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