



# *St Mary's Catholic Primary School*

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong  
Diocese of Plymouth*

17<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Swimming and water safety has been a statutory element of the national curriculum for PE since 1994. However, annual research by the national governing body for swimming, Swim England, shows that since 2012 only half of children aged between seven and 11-years-old have met the required swimming standard.

The inclusion of swimming within the national curriculum means there should be no excuse why any child should not be able to swim. Children who are unable to go swimming with their families have the opportunity to learn how to swim in Year 3 at St Mary's. Of course, it's not just about swimming ability, it's also about knowing the dangers of water and how to get yourself out of trouble if you fall in. We are fortunate to live in an area where having the opportunity to have fun in the water at the beach is an affordable activity and one of most important benefits of learning how to swim is for families to spend fun, quality time together, and at the same time help children to develop a safe, healthy, activity.

We would like to start the process of record keeping the achievements of our swimmers and therefore would ask that you provide us with details of any awards your child may have won outside of school. This may be a "learn to swim" award, a "distance" award, an "I can" award or a "water safety" award. Anything that your child has achieved in the water will help us build a picture! We will keep these details on a database, and update them annually until your child leaves St Mary's. The reason for us asking for this information is that the Department for Education have recently updated their policy and from this year, schools will be required to publish how many Year 6 pupils have met the national curriculum requirements relating to swimming and water safety.

Please either send the award in with your child (we will return it safely to you!) or forward details to our school office email account ([office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk)).

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

*L Evans*

Mrs L Evans

PE Leader