



# St Anthony's Catholic Primary School

## A Voluntary Academy



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**Headteacher: Mrs C Fox, B.Ed., M.Sc., NPQH**

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8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

### Swimming Programme

During Year 4 our pupils will travel to Wythenshawe Forum for swimming lessons. Swimming is an important life skill that may one day, save your child's life. The government requests that pupils are taught to swim a distance of at least 25 metres. In previous years, despite having a swimming lesson each week with excellent swimming instruction, there were many children who failed to reach the 25m standard. Having researched this, many schools are in a similar situation. In some schools, if a child can already swim 25metres, then they do not attend school swimming lessons. We do not agree with this approach but we feel we cannot continue with our current format. I'm sure you will agree that the important thing is to be able to swim, therefore we feel something has to change.

This year we are trialling a new format that will mean longer time in the pool for your child so that they can become more confident in the water. Each lesson will last 50 minutes, compared with 30 minutes previously. We are splitting the lessons into three terms. All pupils will attend this Tuesday where the swimming instructors will group the children according to their needs. Across the year, your child will attend at least one full term of swimming lessons.

When your child is not swimming, they will be introduced to robotics and computer programming through building with the familiar LEGO bricks and easy to use coding software. This hands-on approach will improve their problem solving skills as well as develop their creativity and enhance their maths and science knowledge. Pupils will also have the opportunity to follow a healthy lifestyle programme learning about making sensible choices in relation to food and exercise whilst also learning about the benefits of forming good habits from an early age.

### **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Your child will need a swimming costume/ trunks, towel and swimming hat. Swimming costume must be one garment- bikinis are not acceptable. Trunks need to be skin tight- Bermuda style shorts are not permitted. Goggles are not allowed.

I thank you in advance for your support with this. If you have any queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Lindsay  
**P.E. Department**