

Bluefins Lessons News



April 2007

Cranbourne Pool

If your child swims at Queen Mary's Pool, you can skip to the next section! As the rest of you know, there are problems at Cranbourne and the pool has been closed since the Easter break.



I'm sorry to have to tell you that **the closure will continue until at least 29th April.**

We are working with the school to determine when it will reopen, but I'm not able to give any dates as yet. Please bear with us – as those of you who have been with us for a while know, these things happen from time to time at all our pools and we just have to do the best we can. We are working on contingency plans in case the closure is longer than at first thought and we will communicate these with you as soon as we can.

Meanwhile, I am continuing to organise the new block of lessons due to start in early/mid May, as you will see from the enclosed Lesson Confirmation letter. Obviously if things don't go to plan, I will be in touch to discuss alternatives.

If you are able to take your child to a public session, please do so – this will minimise the disadvantages of a four week break from being in the water. Our young swimmers can keep their confidence up by practising blowing bubbles in the bath and putting their faces in the water – under supervision, of course and without too much bubble bath in the water!



Fees and refunds

This next part will be of interest to everyone as we all like to know what happens when things don't go to plan!



- Bluefin's lesson fees are structured around 40 lessons per year.
- Each year, the pools are booked for about 42 lessons, so there is a contingency to allow for unexpected closures such as the one at Cranbourne right now.
- **If we are able to provide 42 lessons, then we do so at no extra cost to you.**
- If sudden closures mean we are unable to provide 40 lessons, then we will refund the missing lessons at the rate of £3.90 per lesson. Refunds take place in July when lessons have finished for the summer.
- At the moment, we are still on track for the minimum number of lessons, except possibly on Mondays and Fridays when we have had other unforeseen closures and Bank Holidays – once the state of Cranbourne is known, we will probably try to add extra weeks to our booking to account for these.

Keeping in contact

I have spent many hours this week contacting parents about closures and have found one or two issues. I have tried to make contact with every family twice using **two out of three** methods:



1. email
2. text message
3. phone call

I have discovered that some of you have moved or changed phone number and I have had NO method of making contact. To those few of you who did not receive a message, I apologise – but I did my best!!

I am very proud of myself for learning to send text messages – something I've been meaning to do for ages. So **if you have a mobile phone or an email address that you access regularly, please make sure I have the details.** Your Lesson confirmation letter gives you all the details I have – please keep me up to date so that I am able to get in touch when necessary.

Website

Whenever possible, Bluefins puts messages on its website – so in times of stress, please check the website so you know what's going on.

Certificates and Badges



As most of you know, our teachers assess your children on an ongoing basis throughout each block of lessons. Then, towards the end of each block, you receive a report and notification if your child has achieved an ASA Award. To claim your child's Award, all you need to do is let me know you'd like it (not all families collect their awards). You can return the slip at the bottom of your report, or you can request the Award by email. I know what is due to each child, so I am then able to send off for Certificates and arrange to get them to you. **There is no cost involved to you – this is all included in your child's lesson fee.**



Club Championships

If your child is in Level 3 or above (on the present course) you will find enclosed an entry form for Bluefins Club Championships which takes place on Sunday 20th May at the Aquadrome. Children in Levels 3 – 6 may swim one length of the pool, using any stroke or combination of strokes.

Children in Levels 7 – 9 may enter up to 4 races. They will need to be able to swim 25metres of each stroke to a high standard. I would suggest that most of our children in these groups can swim Freestyle or Backstroke, but that with Breaststroke or Butterfly, you should check with your child's teacher whether it would be sensible to enter these more technical strokes. (Parents of children at Cranbourne are welcome to contact me about this if they want to enter before the pool reopens)

I am hoping to be able to organise a practice session at the Aquadrome before the Championships so that your child will be more prepared for 'the big day'. More news on this when the date and time are confirmed.

Provisional Lessons Programme from May 07

Mon	CB	5.00	1		3	4	5	
		5.30	2	2	3	3	6	
		6.00	7	8	9			
Tue	CB	5.00	1	2	3	5		
		5.30	2	2	3	4	5/6	
		6.00	7	8	9			
Wed	CB	5.00	1	2	3	6		
		5.30	2	3	4	5		
		6.00	1	7	8			
Thur	QMC	4.00	1	2	3	6		
		4.30	2	2	3	4	5	
		5.00	7	8	9			
Fri	CB	6.30	1	2	3	6		
		7.00	2	3	4	5		
		7.30	7	8				
Sat	CB	9.30	7	8				
		10.00	2	2	3	6		
		10.30	1	2	3	5		
		11.00	1	2	4	5		
		11.30	7	8	9			
Sun	CB	9.30	7	8	9			
		10.00	1	2	3 / 4	5	6	
		10.30	1	Tads x 5				
		11.00	1	2	3	4	6	

Contacts:

Sue (lessons): 01256 418710
 Email: sue.lambert@swimbluefins.org

Club Office: 01256 351921 – leave a message and we'll get back to you

Club Website: www.swimbluefins.org