



Parents' Newsletter

Issue 1—June 2014



Dear Parents/Grandparents/Carers,

My name is Abby Turner and I am the newly appointed Chief Instructor for PBSSS. I started my role towards the end of March 2014 and I have been working 'behind the scenes' to put some new structures and ideas in place to support the progression of our swimmers. I feel that I am now at a point where I can formally introduce myself and to inform you of some of the key changes that myself, the coaching team (Tom Reader and Katalina Smalley) and the committee have agreed on.

Before I inform you of the updates, I felt I should give you a short background about myself. Although I only joined PBSSS as a swimming teacher in September 2013, I did used to compete competitively at a swimming club in my home town in Essex. This love for swimming then led me to taking my swimming teachers qualifications at the age of 16 in order to share my love for the sport with children. Alongside being the Chief Instructor for PBSSS I am also a Special Educational Needs teacher at a local primary school so teaching children is part of my everyday life.

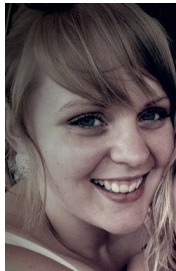
In order for our children to progress and enjoy the Learn to Swim (LTS) programme, we at PBSSS strongly believe that it needs to be a team effort, which includes involving you in having a say as to what you want to see more or less of. Therefore if you ever have any concerns, ideas, or questions please do not hesitate to contact me:

E-mail: chiefinstructor_PBSSS@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07534 341 199

Alternatively if you would rather speak to me in person then I regularly attend the Wednesday session (from approx. 6.30pm) and Friday evenings (from approx. 7.15pm). If these times are inconvenient for you then please do not hesitate to contact me with when your child swims and I will endeavor to come and see you at this time.

I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know your children better.



Abby Turner, PBSSS Chief Instructor

Learn to Swim programme

Our Learn to Swim (LTS) programme follows the ASA's National Teaching Plan for swimming. In order to make this fun for our children we are going to introduce the 'Swimmer's passport'. This is a small card booklet that has space in it for the children to add stickers to when they have achieved various certificates. We will be ordering these passports shortly, so as soon as they have

arrived we will let you know.

If you would like to know more information on the ASA's framework for swimming please visit:

[http://
www.swimming.org/go/
parents/learn-to-swim/](http://www.swimming.org/go/parents/learn-to-swim/)

Learn to Swim lesson times

Sunday

- 14.00—16.45 at Beeches swimming pool

Monday

- 18.00—19.00 at Beeches swimming pool
- 18.30—19.30 at Handsworth swimming pool

Wednesday

- 18.00—19.30 at Beeches swimming pool

Thursday

- 18.30-19.30 at Handsworth swimming pool

Friday

- 18.15—19.15 at Erdington swimming pool

Assessment structure

In order to ensure that our children are progressing through our LTS programme we are going to start organising our assessments into a 13 week 'block' structure. This means that at the end of the 13 weeks our children will either have progressed to the next level, achieved a distance badge, or have received an achievement certificate.

The 13 week structure will be as follows:

- Weeks 1-9 will be normal teaching weeks where your children's teachers will follow the ASA's national framework to ensure that your children show progression.
- Weeks 10-12 will be assessment weeks (please try to get your children to their lessons during these weeks as they are important in helping your children to progress) - Assessment information will be sent to me from the teachers by the end of week 12.
- Week 13 will be a chance for your children to familiarise themselves with their new classes if they have progressed and it will be the time that your child will receive their certificate.

The dates for the next 13 week block are as follows:

- Week 1 - W/C Sunday 27th April
- Week 2 - W/C Sunday 4th May
- Week 3 - W/C Sunday 11th May
- Week 4 - W/C Sunday 18th May
- Week 5 - W/C Sunday 25th May
- Week 6 - W/C Sunday 1st June
- Week 7 - W/C Sunday 8th June
- Week 8 - W/C Sunday 15th June
- Week 9 - W/C Sunday 22nd June
- Week 10 - W/C Sunday 29th June
- Week 11 - W/C Sunday 6th July
- Week 12 - W/C Sunday 13th July
- Week 13 - W/C Sunday 20th July

If you have any questions on this structure please do not hesitate to contact me.



I hope you have found the information in the first issue of the parents' newsletter useful. Some of it I am sure you knew already, but I hope the changes we are looking to make have been explained clearly. Please remember that if you do have any questions, ideas or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me, or another member of the PBSSS committee.

Let's keep working together to help our children achieve.

Parents, carers and grandparents are kindly reminded of the importance in consistency for our children to show progress and success through our Learn to Swim programme. Therefore, if you could avoid missing sessions it would be greatly appreciated.

A lesson missed = Progress lengthened.
