



Great Marlow School

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23rd May 2024

Water Safety and Drowning Prevention Week (15th June 2024)

Dear Parents and Carers

In preparation for the upcoming half term break, we are notifying you that during registration sessions this week, we have opted to raise awareness about the risks involved when jumping or swimming in outdoor water sites, especially as our location is so close to the river and other open water places.

Sadly, over 400 people accidentally drown in the UK and Ireland every year, and many more have non-fatal experiences, with some of these being life changing. Tragically as recently as last weekend two teenage boys died in Northumberland after getting into difficulty in a river. We wish to alert parents, carers and young people to the potential dangers and risk to life associated with outdoor water, especially as we move towards the summer, which is forecast to be sunny and hot. It is very tempting, on a hot day, to plunge into cold water, but the human body can go into cold-water shock, making breathing and moving difficult. The average water temperatures in the UK are a cold 12°C; please help educate our young people by showing them, and discussing with them, this video called [Cold Water Shock](#).

There are other dangers, too, that could, inadvertently, place a young person at risk.

Even the strongest of swimmers can find themselves in trouble in outdoor water, because it is hazardous: swimmers can become entangled in plants and weeds; polluted water, sometimes from drains, can make swimmers ill; rubbish, (including dangerous broken glass bottles) can harm; unpredictable underwater currents can carry swimmers far from the bank; shallow water and deep water are as dangerous as each other, especially as river levels rise and fall: a place that may seem shallow one day could be deep on another.

Water Safety Advice from Royal Life Saving Society can be found by following the link to [Drowning Prevention Week](#). This campaign has been running for over ten years and educates families, carers, teachers and instructors of children, aged five to fifteen years old, about the hazards of water and how to stay safe.

I hope you find this information useful.

Stay safe

Kind Regards

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