



HEADTEACHER
Mr G Pendlebury
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER
Mr N Maguire

22nd May 2026

Water Safety and Drowning Prevention Week (14th-22nd June 2026)

Dear Parents and Carers

With the half term break approaching and warm, sunny weather forecast, we wanted to take this opportunity to remind you about water safety, particularly given our school's proximity to the River Thames and other open water locations in our area.

We know that it is perfectly normal for groups of friends to meet up and enjoy our beautiful riverside location, it is one of the wonderful things about living in Marlow and the surrounding area. However, we want to ensure that our young people stay safe while doing so.

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. We wish to alert parents, carers and young people to the potential dangers and risks to life associated with outdoor water, especially during the warmer summer months.

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 and discussing with them this video about staying water-wise this summer:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdcxThIHUmc>

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.

Kind Regards

Neil Maguire

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Maguire', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Deputy Headteacher (DSL)

Great Marlow