



Wednesday 3 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Subject: Water Safety**

We have been asked to speak to all parents about the dangers of open water by the West Midlands Fire Service. The tragic loss of a teenager at Kingsbury Water Park over the Bank Holiday weekend, together with several other incidents across the country, has highlighted how dangerous open water can be, especially for young people during periods of hot weather.

We encourage you to take time to share the following safety advice with your child and discuss how to keep themselves safe. The West Midlands Fire Service website also offers useful guidance: [WMFS Water Safety](#). In School we will also be sharing this important information.

You may be tempted to go for a dip to cool off, but while it may be warm above the surface, the water beneath can be much colder. Cold water shock can make you gasp and cause your muscles to stop working properly, preventing your ability to swim.

- Never jump or dive straight into open water. Cold water shock is a risk, and beneath the surface there may be strong currents, unknown depths, hazardous objects or pollution—all of which can prevent you getting to safety.
- If you do enter the water and begin to feel cold, get out immediately. Hypothermia will reduce your muscle strength and your ability to swim.
- Before entering any body of water, make sure you are familiar with the area, observe any signs and advice, and think about what you would do if something went wrong. If you can see fast-flowing water, do not enter it currents can quickly sweep people away.

If someone falls into deep water:

- Call 999 and ask for the fire service if you are inland, or the coastguard if you are at the coast. If you do not have a phone, shout for help but do not enter the water yourself.
- Encourage the person in the water to try to float on their back, and if there is rescue equipment nearby, throw it to them.
- Never enter the water to try to save someone; you could suffer cold water shock yourself and be unable to help, even if you are a strong swimmer.

We hope this is helpful information about the dangers and how to keep safe near open water.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Boyle  
Headteacher

