

Hi all,

I hope you are keeping safe and well.

I am writing to you to give you an update regarding our Splash Learn to Swim programme and your swimming lessons.

We have unfortunately had to make the difficult decision to delay the return of all our swimming lessons i.e. group *and* 1-1. There are many reasons behind this but ultimately, the guidance provided from the governing body, alongside the current government regulations, simply makes it too difficult to implement effectively at the current time.

As it stands, teachers cannot be in the water with their swimmers and, for many of you, we understand that this is a major change to our practices. The results from our recent survey, which are supported by other national research, made it clear that this was not something the majority of learners were comfortable with. There was also significant feedback that suggested many of you were not planning on returning until September. This has helped us greatly in making an informed decision and so we would like to thank you all for taking the time to provide your feedback.

One of the main logistical issues we are facing, is the social distancing in the changing rooms. Whilst we have space to cater in the swimming pool, we are restricted by the rest of the facilities. When running swimming lessons there are lots of bodies in the changing rooms and therefore we cannot adhere to social distancing. It is also vital that we can continue to follow our safeguarding policy, having parents accompany children up to the age of 8 into the changing rooms. Due to having to greatly reduce their capacity, this very much restricts how many children we can have in any one lesson. We have spent multiple hours looking at possible options for running swimming lessons, working around these issues, however it is currently just not practical. Your safety is of paramount importance to us and we would rather wait a little longer to ensure the upmost safety for you and our staff.

We are hoping as the ever changing situation improves and restrictions are eased, it will allow us to get back to teaching again. We do not currently have a fixed return date, however we are hoping to return in September 2020 in line with the academic year.

We hope you can understand our position and would like to apologise for any disappointment that this may cause. Please rest assured that we will do our very best to get you back to your lessons as soon as we are able to do so safely and efficiently.

Please note that all of your direct debits will remain frozen until we can return and therefore no payment will be taken.

If you have any questions regarding this please do not hesitate to contact me on k.collins@uea.ac.uk

Thanks

Katie, Matty & the team.