

Starting up again

We have reconfigured our programme in line Swim England guidance and regulation for distance required for each stage. This may mean that your child is swimming in less or more space that they previously had at their former pool but fits the National Governing Body Requirements. We have retained as much of the original programme as possible however there may be some changes. We have tried where possible to keep the children with their original teacher and time however this is not the case with every lesson.

Getting to us

- Biggin Hill has ample free parking and can be accessed by car and the R2 bus.
- Darrick Wood has limited but free parking at the site and is on Lovibonds Avenue near Darrick Wood School.

Beach ready

Lessons at Biggin Hill will not need to arrive beach ready due to ample changing space however lessons at Darrick Wood we are requesting for children to arrive Beach Ready.

This means that children need to arrive with their swimming kit under their clothes and to shower at home before and after attending their lesson. This way children can go straight to pool side with limited time in the changing cubicles.

Changing cubicles will be open but there is limited space on poolside to use them. We will also be opening the main room up in Darrick Wood for children to leave their belongings on chairs with space to change if beach ready is not an option.

Travelling through the leisure centre

Entrances, exits and direction signage will be clearly marked for entrance to the pool. It may be your centre will have a separate entrance and exits for swimming lessons to avoid travelling through the centre to reach the pool. Please leave prams and scooters in designated areas in the centre and take any valuables with you.

Observations

For children over 8 years, we ask you to drop off your child at your centres allocated drop off for lessons and pick up at the end of the lesson. For children under 8 years you can wait in the observation areas, not poolside. We ask that only one parent or carer brings children to their lesson.

Teachers

As above we have tried to keep the same teacher with the same class however this has not always been possible due to whether they have been able to move or travel to the site your lesson is being moved to.

The lessons

The pools will be divided into teaching zones and children given stations in these zones. Your child may be in a different section of the pool to the one they had before and in some cases this may mean that your child moves from the teaching pool at your home pool or into deeper water in the main pool. We have got kit that will help with this transition.

Reassessments

To ease children back into classes we will conduct reassessments on the first few lessons. It is natural for children to feel nervous and there may be a little regression but we hope they will be excited! This reassessment will help the children regain their confidence and ensure they are achieving to their best abilities.

Why has Walnuts leisure centre closed?

The Centre has closed due to a really exciting and extensive refurbishment programme. The new facility will be updated with modernised facilities throughout the building.

How long will the Centre be closed for?

It is anticipated to be closed for 12-13 months. That means we should be open in February / March 2026

Will my Darrick wood instructor remain the same?

Wherever possible we will endeavour to keep the teacher the same. If your instructor is due to change, we will let you know in due course.

How many teachers can we expect to see in the pool at one time?

In the busiest times Mon – Fri 4pm-6pm, Saturday 9:30am – 14:30pm you will expect to see up to 5 teachers in the pool. The number of teachers is determined by current programming

How many children would you expect to see in the different zones?

In smaller zones we are aiming to have 6 children. Bigger areas will hold up to 8 whilst lanes can hold up to 10 children.

How is the amount of pool space being determined?

In line with the Swim England guidance

Where can we park at Darrick wood?

You can park at Darrick wood or in the side roads surrounding the areas

Will I still receive a 30 minute lesson?

As per the terms and conditions lessons will be 25 minutes of teaching time with a 5 minute registration period and change over time