

13 February 2009

Dear Parents,

Congratulations must go to all of our swimmers who took part in the County Championships over the last two weekends. Everyone achieved at least one personal best time and a number had top eight places. Each year that we compete there our results improve and I am sure that this will continue into the future especially when the new Gillingham pool is completed next winter.

Polite request: The coaches would ask that you bring children to St Mary's and Port Regis so that they can be on pool side five minutes before the start of each session. During that time they need to stretch; at the start of the session they need to warm up properly, swimming slowly for up to ten minutes before starting drills. It is often not practical for late children to be warming up when others are swimming faster or using floats or pull buoys etc. In addition, by arriving late, swimmers are deprived of valuable training time. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Dates for your diary:

- **28th February** Inter club gala at Wareham for ages 9, 10, 11 and 12 year olds.
- **6th March** North Dorset Primary Schools' Gala at St. Mary's Shaftesbury.
- **14th March** Club training at Bath University from 2 – 4 pm.
- **28th March** Blackmore Vale Lions' Swimathon at Clayesmore at 3 pm.
- **11/12th April** Bournemouth Dolphins Level 2 Open Meet at Littledown.
- **18th April** Southern Junior League venue TBA for 9, 10, 11 and 12 year olds.
- **25th April** Club training at Bath University from 2 – 4 pm.
- **3rd May** Bournemouth Dolphins Level 3 Open Meet at Littledown
- **16th May** Southern Junior League venue TBA.
- **20th June** Southern Junior League venue TBA.
- **27th June** Club training at Bath University from 3 - 5 pm.
- **4th and 5th July** County Development Meet at Littledown, Bournemouth.

I hope that everyone will be able to take part in at least some of the above.

We are entering 3 children's teams of 6 swimmers at the Swimathon and would like volunteers. The team captains, Gemma and Sam will be organising these. Last year the boys' team achieved a record 100 laps [200 lengths] in the allotted 55 minutes.

During the next few months our club needs to raise several thousands of pounds to purchase lane ropes and starting blocks for the new Gillingham pool. If you have any ideas for raising money please let us know ASAP.

Yours sincerely

Chris Gassmann