**Return to the Pool Update**

We are delighted to let you know that we can return to the pool and sessions will start again on **Wednesday 2nd December.**

Sadly, because of the fact that Birmingham and the surrounding areas are in Tier 3, Swimmers and Water Polo players aged 18 and over will not be able to return to the pool at the moment.

**Timetable**

For Swimming the session timetable will be the same as we were following prior to this lockdown except that the Masters session on a Friday morning will not take place. This timetable was posted on WhatsApp groups at the weekend and is also on our website. A special Christmas timetable will be in place for the festive period from Thursday 24th December to Friday 1st January. Details of this and how to book places will be shared with swimmers in the next couple of days.

For Water Polo the session timetable will be as follows:-

-Tuesday 6.30pm – 7.30pm at Walsall

-Sunday 5.00pm – 6.00pm and 6.00pm – 7.30pm at Wyndley

Arrangements for the Christmas period will be shared with players in the next couple of days.

**Covid Safety Procedures**

Covid-19 and the risks associated with it are still high and therefore the ongoing safety of everyone involved with our Club remains our primary concern. Prior to the second lockdown the vast majority of our swimmers, water polo players, coaches, volunteers and parents had responded positively and sensibly to our new ways of working. These procedures remain in place and we would like to remind you of the key points:-

* Changing rooms will not be open so all swimmers and players will need to **arrive ‘pool ready’ and leave directly from poolside without getting changed.**
* All swimmers, water polo players, coaches, volunteers and parents should **wear face coverings and socially distance during drop off / pick up and when queuing.** This is regardless of who you arrive with or may be in a ‘bubble’ with outside of swimming. (The wearing of face coverings does NOT apply to children aged 11 and under or those with a medical exemption)
* We would also ask that swimmers / players **continue to socially distance and wear their face coverings until they are on poolside, whilst on poolside and getting changed ready to swim. They should also socially distance and put their face coverings on again when they are getting changed at the end of a session.**
* Swimmers and players should also **socially distance and wear face coverings when leaving the pool at the end of a session.**

Please ensure that everyone in your family who is involved with the Club reads, understands and complies with these procedures.

**General Safety Procedures**

It is now winter and so it is colder and gets darker much earlier. It is therefore even more important that we follow good practice in the interests of keeping our children healthy and safe. Therefore we would request that parents:-

* **Arrive only 5 minutes before the start of a session** to drop their children off (particularly at Erdington and Wyndley where swimmers /players will need to queue outside the building)
* Remind their children to dry themselves fully at the end of a session before leaving
* **Come and collect their children from the building at the end of a session rather than wait in their car**

In order to help with safety at Castle Vale the staff have agreed to open up the back car park from 4.00pm. **Therefore parents should continue to drop off their children in the front car park but are able to park in the back car park at the end of a session to pick them up**. This will mean children have less distance to walk in the dark. Please give enough time for the previous session to have left the car park before driving round the back.

However swimmers at Castle Vale can continue to leave via the front door for the following sessions: Monday morning (PG); Monday evening (PG); Thursday morning (PG); Thursday evening (PS); Friday evening (PS).

**Health Survey and Return to Swimming Declaration**

Attached to this letter are a Health Survey and a Return to Swimming Declaration. These are very similar to the ones you completed when you returned to the pool after the first lockdown.

**However all swimmers, players, coaches and volunteers must complete these new forms before they are allowed to return to the pool.** When completed these forms must be returned to registers@teamboldmere.co.uk

We are looking forward to seeing you all back at the pool.