



June 2023

**Message from PC Slee – #Be Water Safe, Be safe this Summer**

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE - PLEASE READ**

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you today during this period of prolonged hot weather.

The curriculum in school annually schedules “Water Safety” but as we are getting hot weather prior to the summer break I’d like to refresh this key message now.

The number of people dying by drowning has been rising in the past 3 years, reversing a trend of falling numbers over the previous two decades. The UK’s heatwaves have been particularly deadly as they tempt more people into the water.

In Wakefield District we sadly had two child water fatalities last year and with this in mind it is so important to refresh the key safety advice to children and remind them of the danger of open water swimming.

In conjunction with Wakefield District Council, West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and Outwood Grange Academy I am keen to highlight and share some fantastic awareness videos. There are 3 separate stories to help with safety chats at home:

Video 1 – Caleb <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YN2Jai9HCXw>

Video 2 – Amy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GejaY4Q7c7o&feature=youtu.be>

Video 3 – Harris <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hreDyM7GAN0>

Canals, rivers, reservoirs and docks are wonderful places to spend time, so it’s no wonder people enjoy them throughout the year. However, please be aware that swimming in these areas is prohibited unless with an authorised swim club.

The main cause of water fatality is 'cold water shock' whether a strong swimmer or not; cold water immersion can trigger gasping, rapid breathing and/or hyperventilation. This uncontrolled rapid breathing can quickly create a drowning emergency if water is inhaled, and a person cannot stay afloat.

**What to do if you find yourself or see someone else in trouble**

- Float on your back like a "starfish"
- Don't get in to help them, call 999 and ask for the Fire Service
- If a pet goes in the water, do not get in. Encourage it to swim to you.

Please be assured that a full assembly across all year groups is planned imminently. In the meantime please share these videos with your children.

Feel free to share across other schools, sectors and family ensuring as many people as possible in our community are Water Aware & Water Safe this summer.

If you require my support or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on [J.Slee@grange.outwood.com](mailto:J.Slee@grange.outwood.com) – all emergencies should be reported via 999.

Alternatively telephone the academy on 01924-204350 Ext:329.

*"Working in partnership to keep our school and community a safe place."*

Kind regards

*Jayne*

PC 5155 Jayne Slee