

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

Dear Parent/Carers,

I am writing to you all following the recent tragic incidents involving open water, seen over the Spring bank holiday. We recognise that events such as this can understandably cause concerns and therefore, we are asking that parents support us to educate our pupils about the dangers of entering open waters.

**Important points to note:**

- Water at the edges of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs may feel warm and inviting, but temperatures can drop sharply in deeper areas, often becoming dangerously cold.
- In hot weather, it can be tempting to jump into open water to cool down; however, this can be extremely hazardous. Hidden currents, sudden drops in depth, and unseen debris can all present serious risks.
- Cold water shock is a critical danger and can incapacitate even strong swimmers within seconds.
- Open water environments are unpredictable, and even confident swimmers can quickly encounter difficulties.

**If you see someone unexpectedly enter the water, the following advice should be followed:**

- Stay calm.
- Call for help—ask someone to dial 999

**We urge everyone to take extra care around lakes, reservoirs, rivers, canals, and coastal areas.**

**Please see overleaf guidance from the RNLI about how to “float to live”. Please encourage your children to familiarise themselves with it.**

Further guidance and resources are available at:






- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service – Water safety and drowning prevention
- Water Safety Advice and Tips – Know the Risks
- Sam’s Army – Mission 1 Life

Yours Sincerely,



Miss H Buchanan  
Headteacher

## 5 STEPS TO KNOW HOW TO FLOAT

- 1** ▶  Tilt your head back submerging your ears.
- 2** ▶  Relax and control your breathing.
- 3** ▶  Move your hands and legs to help you stay afloat.
- 4** ▶  Your legs may sink – that's OK. Everyone floats differently.
- 5** ▶  Practise floating at a supervised location like a swimming pool.