



Chesterton CE Primary School
Alchester Road
Chesterton
BICESTER
Oxfordshire
OX26 1UN

Telephone: 01869 252498

Email: office.3082@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk

Website: chestertonprimaryschool.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr Iain Horner

3rd June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach **Drowning Prevention Week (13–20 June)**, we would like to highlight an important national campaign led by the Royal Life Saving Society UK to raise awareness of water safety ahead of the summer holidays.

This message is particularly important following recent tragic events, including the death of a young person in the River Thames at Oxford. Mrs Salter delivered an assembly on water safety this morning (including the Oscar The Otter video – link overleaf), but you may want to speak to your child further depending on their age.

Such incidents are a sad reminder of how quickly situations can change in open water, and the devastating impact on families and communities. The very last thing that any of us would want is for an incident like this to affect one of our families.

We encourage all parents, carers and staff to share this simple but vital safety message with pupils:

- **Stop and think** before entering the water
- **Stay together** with friends or family
- **Float and call for help** if in difficulty

Drowning is preventable through awareness, education, and supervision. Please take a moment to read the attached information.

We have also received reports via the Police that primary age children (they may not be Chesterton pupils) have been visiting the buildings and grounds of Bignell House. As you may be aware the property suffered significant fire damage and is very unsafe with an open inspection pit and well in the garage, plus open water in the grounds. This was also mentioned to the pupils in today's assembly.

Thank you for helping to keep children safe this summer.

Kind Regards, Mrs Hall – Home School Link Worker



DROWNING PREVENTION WEEK

13-20 JUNE 2026

Raising awareness.
Saving lives.



RECENT TRAGEDIES

The recent death of a young person in the River Thames is a heartbreaking reminder of how quickly things can go wrong in open water.

Drowning can happen quickly and silently.



COLD WATER SHOCK

Sudden immersion in cold water can cause involuntary gasping, rapid breathing and loss of control – making it difficult to stay afloat or swim.

Learn more:

riss.org.uk/cold-water-shock-the-facts

FOLLOW THE WATER SAFETY CODE



STOP AND THINK

Take time to assess the risks.



STAY TOGETHER

Never swim alone.
Look out for others.



FLOAT AND CALL FOR HELP

Float to live.
Call for help.

[Drowning Prevention Week](#)

[Oscar The Otter Water Safety Video](#)

[Metropolitan Police Video \(parental guidance - suitable for older children\)](#)