



17th July 2026

Staying Safe Around Water This Summer

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the summer holidays, many families will be spending time at beaches, lakes, rivers, swimming pools and paddling pools. We know this is often a time for fun, relaxation and making memories together, but it can also be a good opportunity to remind ourselves of some simple water safety messages.

Drowning is one of the leading causes of accidental death in children worldwide. In England, national data shows that children under 5 and teenagers are among those most at risk, and that many incidents occur when children are not being closely supervised. The good news is that drowning is largely preventable. Small actions can make a significant difference:

- Always supervise children closely in and around water.
- Stay within arm's reach of young children when they are in or near water.
- Empty paddling pools after use and store them safely.
- Teach children never to enter water without an adult's permission.
- Be particularly careful around rivers, lakes, canals and reservoirs, where conditions can change quickly.
- Encourage children to learn to swim and develop water safety skills.

We also encourage families to discuss the **Water Safety Code** with their children:

STOP – Think and plan before going near water.

LOOK – Be aware of dangers and understand local risks.

STAY TOGETHER – Always go with friends or family.

FLOAT – If you fall into water unexpectedly, float on your back until you can control your breathing, then call for help or swim to safety.

For further information and family-friendly resources, please visit:

- Royal Life Saving Society UK: <https://www.rlss.org.uk>
- Water Safety Code: <https://www.rlss.org.uk/water-safety>
- National Water Safety Forum: <https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/water-safety-code> (includes UK-wide safety messages)
- RNLI Beach Safety Advice: <https://rnli.org/safety>

We hope you have a wonderful summer break and enjoy spending time together safely. Thank you for helping us reinforce these important messages with your children

Kind regards, *Mrs C Holgate*, Headteacher, Barden Primary School