

Dear parents and carers,

Due to our coastal location we have been contacted by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and asked to pass on some important advice from their Water Safety Team.



Lifeboats

This summer, RNLI lifeguards will **not** be on patrol on every beach, meaning there will be a heightened water safety risk to beach goers and their families.

During the summer term we usually have a visit from the RNLI lifeguards. However, due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak this will not happen this year. Below are some of the key messages from the RNLI.

What are the dangers for children at the beach?

Without you by their side, children are vulnerable at the beach. They need you to protect them from the sea's unpredictable waves, rip currents and cold water. And, this summer, fewer lifeguard patrols will be on hand to supervise or rescue your family.

What do you need to avoid?

Don't use inflatables - they get swept out to sea, with you or your child on them. And watch out for rip currents. Every beach is different, so make a point of reading any safety signs.

What if you do get into danger?

If you have your mobile phone, call 999 and ask for the Coastguard, and they will send help. Leave difficult rescues to the lifesavers. If there are lifeguards nearby, alert them. If you or your children are struggling in the water, remember: FLOAT TO LIVE.



Below are some links to a range of resources that could help you educate your child about water safety. There are specific resources for children of this age. On the back of this letter there is a spot the beach dangers picture to discuss with your child.

<https://rnli.org/youth-education/water-safety-from-home>

<https://rnli.org/youth-education/education-resources/water-safety-wednesdays>

<https://rnli.org/pages/beach2020>

With kind regards,

Claire Grant

