

Date for Release	From	Contact Tel	Email
06/12/2006 For Immediate Release	Erica Cross Marketing Manager	01454 867065	erica.cross@southglos.gov.uk

**Title:**

## “Success of School Swimming Pilot”

**Body:**

**South Gloucestershire Leisure Trust** has recently teamed up in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council's Sports Development and Education Departments to trial a new method of teaching school children to swim. Wheatfield Primary School in Bradley Stoke was selected to take part in this pilot scheme which took place over a four week period.

The school arranged for two groups of approximately 30 children to attend a 25 minute swimming lesson at the start of every school day for a two week period. The aim of the scheme was to compare the effectiveness of this intensive style lesson compared to having a swimming lesson once a week (which is the current method of teaching). This intensive style of teaching may then be adopted under a top-up scheme for children who fail to meet the Key Stage 2 level of being able to swim 25 metres.

The results from this pilot have been extremely positive from all angles. All of the children involved improved their swimming ability, with some children achieving 100 metres (four lengths of the main pool).

Gill Johnson Swimming Co-ordinator at Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre said “This pilot scheme has been very positive overall and we are very pleased with the children's efforts. We would like to thank everyone involved for all their hard work in making this a success.”

The Council's Sports Development officer Kim Hazeldine and Gill Johnson from the Leisure Centre will be visiting the school on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December to present certificates to all those children involved.

**Ends**

**Notes for Editors:**

- **Photographers** – If you have a photographer free on Friday (8<sup>th</sup> December ) morning to take shots of the children receiving their certificates at Wheatfield Primary, Bradley Stoke please contact me on 01454 867065 so I can check and obtain permission from the school.
- **South Gloucestershire Leisure Ltd** - South Gloucestershire Leisure Ltd is a charitable trust established in November 2005. It operates the four leisure centres in South Gloucestershire on behalf of South Gloucestershire Council. The Trust is overseen by a board of voluntary trustees.
- **Press releases** - All press releases can be found online at: [www.sgleisure.org/press\\_releases](http://www.sgleisure.org/press_releases)

**South Gloucestershire Leisure**