

## Meldrum Network Pupils Make a Splash!!

10 schools in the Meldrum Network have opted in to the “Learn to Swim” project co-ordinated by Active Schools coordinator Erica Jones and Swimming development officer, Moira Page.

Meldrum was identified as a network with a high proportion of weak and non – swimmers, mostly due to the limited access to swimming facilities in the local area. Therefore schools were eligible to receive funding to cover all coaching costs and pool hire for a block of swimming lessons. The aim of the block is to bring children up to a level where they are able to swim one length confidently. Those who are not able to reach this level in the curricular block will be invited for further lessons with the Learn To Swim (LTS) Programme.

The Meldrum Network schools were also lucky enough to secure a further £3000 funding for transport costs from the Meldrum Community Development Group, who agreed that swimming in Meldrum was an issue that needed to be addressed. The funding received was to launch the Meldrum Swimming project and to help take away the financial barriers to the project and enable it to gain some momentum. The hope is that the funding for coaching will continue next year but if not, that the value of the project will be remembered and schools will look for ways in which to raise funds to meet costs.

3 schools are coming towards the end of their 10 week block of lessons at Turriff pool and school staff have reported that particular children involved have “come on leaps and bounds” during the project and that they could see the project continuing. The project will be continuing throughout term 4 for the remaining 7 schools that opted in to the programme. The remaining schools will be split between Inverurie and Ellon pools.

Due to the generous funding by the Community Development group, pupils have received this block of lessons, including all bus transport, for only £12 per head, just over £1 per session!

If you would like more information on this project or other activity in your area please email [Erica.jones@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:Erica.jones@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) or text/phone 07917 267222.

