

A day in the life of a Swimming Teacher



My day begins at Mater Dei at 8am with administration work to be completed before the arrival of the student Taxis. I work full time as a Teacher's Assistant (TA) in Primary G and Kinder Purple and teach swimming once a week. On my swimming day, I greet the children as they come off the taxi, then I head to the swimming pool and get changed into my swimming gear. The children are then brought to the pool by their Pastoral Teacher and TA where they change into their swimming costumes and commence their lesson. Swimming classes are held on three days of the week at Mater Dei. I conduct the Thursday classes with Gill O'Riordan (*pictured below*), who is also an Austswim teacher. Tuesday and Wednesday swimming classes are conducted by Gill and Juletta Borgia-Brain, who also attend to the important tasks of maintenance and chemical balance of the pool.

Our priority is to teach water safety in all swimming sessions. On Thursdays, our Kinder Purple and Kinder Red students attend the first session. In this session we also work on water familiarisation which involves lots of games. Primary G and Primary R students attend the middle and last sessions of the day. Here we also concentrate on improving the swimming skills of each student. Some are scared of the water, some love it, some use a swimming aid such as a "bubble" to swim, others can swim one or two strokes independently. Most enjoy the feeling of freedom that comes with being buoyant in the water, squealing with delight and swimming with a smile on their faces!

At the end of the last session, I finally dry off and join the rest of the school for class dismissal and Taxis at 3pm.

I much prefer to do swimming lessons in the summer than at this time of year though!

