



# newsletter

## Dear Friends...



*Likkle Swimmers has had a really successful year in 2022. We taught over 300 children in total, and in addition, a number of adult and baby classes...*

We've made lots of new connections this year with both local and UK businesses, as well as projects around the world that also support water safety like us.

Drowning prevention is so important to us. The Jamaican teachers have all worked so hard to make this program happen, and I am so proud of the teachers that they have become. They show incredible leadership as well as kindness and enthusiasm throughout all of the lessons. Nothing is ever too much trouble for them, and they work so hard to make the program work. I am really excited to see how they progress as teachers even further in the future.

Likkle Swimmers has always been proud to be able to provide employment to the local community, which includes our drivers as well as our teachers, and we are also very proud to offer free lessons to anybody interested. I hope that in 2023 Likkle Swimmers will continue to grow thanks to all of your support.

*Charlotte, CEO*



CHARLOTTE (CO-FOUNDER)



KEITH (CO-FOUNDER)



SONIA (TRUSTEE)



ROB (TRUSTEE)



CAMILLA (TRUSTEE)



BECCY (SWIM TEACHER)

# Our Teachers



JAVIN

Javin is always very patient and kind with our beginners and Stage 1's, who all love him. He leads the program when we are not in the country and also assists with the finances as he has just graduated as a secondary school math teacher!



FREDDY

Freddy has huge passion and always has lots of new ideas. He is great with our highest level swimmers and with our toddlers. He has built some really great friendships with the children who adore him. He also helps to look after the volunteers when they stay.



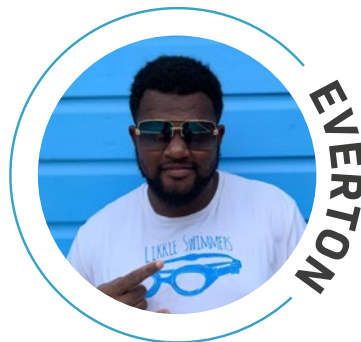
SHADANE

Shadane loves to make the children laugh, especially the teenagers! ALL of which he has built some really strong and lasting friendships with. Shadane also performs additional life guarding duty at the weekends.



JANOI

Janoi is always excited to work, he has such a kind, gentle and friendly personality. He always offers to help with whatever we need, nothing is ever too much for him! He has really grown in confidence over the years of teaching.



EVERTON

Everton was new to our team in 2021. He is such a gentle giant and has a very kind, calm manner. He is really good at making sure everybody is really safe and always the first to arrive for lessons! He is incredible with our babies and their lessons.



SHANE

Shane was new to the team in 2021. He has lots of experience teaching adults and lifeguarding locally. Shane is very knowledgeable about teaching, and always so willing to learn more. He has been amazing with teaching lifesaving skills.



DAJAY

Dajay has grown in confidence so much as a teacher since he started. He is really talented at one-to-one teaching when our students need that extra support with confidence or with learning a new stroke. He can make them feel comfortable very quickly.



CONNIE

Connie has the most energy, always laughing and always the loudest! Connie is excellent with our smallest swimmers and at playing games, and making everything lots of fun. He is one of our hardest working teachers, and will do anything to help.

# Teacher Sponsorship

A big thank you to all of the local businesses that sponsored our teachers in the summer of 2022. They each paid for an individual teachers wages for the summer, and we were able to get their logo onto the back of their particular teachers tops. We wouldn't be able to keep running Likkle Swimmers without the generous support of these businesses, and we are so grateful!



**Shadane | Lyric & Sanguine**

Shadane was sponsored by both Lyric and Sanguine. Lyric is a 4 bedroom villa on Calabash Bay. Sanguine is a 3 bedroom villa in Old Wharf. They have been supportive from the beginning and provided auction lots in the past to help us raise funds.



**Everton | Treasure Tours**

Everton was sponsored by Treasure Tours. Treasure Tours is based in Treasure Beach and offers accommodation, tours and airport transfers. They have been supporting us for many years, and we have also taught the staff's children.



**Shane & Janoi | Rainbow Tree**

Shane and Janoi were both sponsored by Rainbow tree. Rainbow tree is a beautiful 5 bedroom villa in the heart of Billys Bay where so many of our Likkle swimmers live and where a couple of our teachers and their families work.



# Teacher Sponsorship



**Connie | Doubloon Villa**

Connie was sponsored by Doubloon villa, a 4 bedroom villa on Calabash Bay. They have been supportive right from the beginning, always cheering us on!



**Freddy | Jakes Hotel**

Freddy was sponsored by Jakes Hotel which is right in the heart of Treasure Beach. Jakes have helped us out massively with accommodation and we teach a lot of the staff and their children.



**Javin | Turtles Nest**

Javin was sponsored by Turtles Nest Villa. Turtles Nest is a 3 bedroom villa in Old Wharf. They have been so supportive to us by providing us with accommodation which has been a great help.



**Dayjay | Island Car Rentals**

Dayjay was sponsored by Island Car Rentals who provide car hire at Montego Bay and Kingston airports. They have been so friendly since the start and help us out with our car hire.



# Learning Program

We have six different swim stages. At the end of their lessons for each stage, every child is assessed, and there are multiple skills that have to be completed before they move onto the next stage.

We teach baby lessons for children aged 6 months to 3 years old every now and then, these lessons are not currently regular due to less instructors having the training to teach this age but we do try and put on a couple of taster lessons each year to give parents confidence as we have a lot of demand.



## Seahorses - (our 3 and 4 year olds)

We include more singing, games, playtime, water confidence etc to give them the confidence to learn to swim, that's suited to their age. They will learn to put their faces in the water, float with support, jump with support, and learn all about pool safety'



## Crabs (stage 1- any other age)

The Crab class is for anyone aged 5 years and above, and they will all usually be able to stand in the pool. They will learn to swim the width of the pool, as well as many other skills such as jumping and floating. This stage is one that many swimmers will repeat as going from no swim experience to swimming a width can take a lot of practice for some, and for others they will pick it up in a few swim sessions.



## Turtles (stage 2)

Turtles will be confident at swimming the width, and most that pass into turtle are 7 years and over. They will learn how to swim the length of the pool, as well as treading water and sculling.



## Jellyfish (stage 3)

Jellyfish will learn how to swim breast stroke, and also how to flop (an imitation of accidentally falling in) into the water and float to save themselves.



## Dolphin (stage 4)

Dolphins will learn backstroke, better practice on their breathing whilst swimming, and the ability to change stroke, as well as swim for longer periods of time without stopping.



## Sharks (stage 5)

Our last stage and more like our swim club, is for all children who have completed all previous stages. This stage is designed for them to have a place and space to come along and keep up the skills that they have learnt, whilst having supervision, as well as still feeling part of Likkle Swimmers. They will also learn some lifesaving with each other, in the hope they will be able to help others in the community if needed.

# Learning Program



In 2023 we plan to expand Likkle Swimmers even further, and reach even more members of the community in Treasure Beach.

We will be hiring a Jamaican admin role within the team, who will be a local person who will spend time at the pool everyday when lessons are running. They will help take over day to day running tasks from Charlotte, and means that there will always be a friendly face at the pool. They will help with admin tasks, communicating with parents, taking photos and posting on our social media, supporting the teachers, managing our volunteers, helping keep the pool area tidy and organizing everything. We are really excited to welcome somebody into the team, and let you all know when we've found the right person!

We will also be flying out 2 STA trained swim teachers (Camilla and Adam) who will be training our 8 teachers with the STA international teacher qualification over a period of a week. This will give them all a much higher level of training, and a formal qualification, which will mean that Likkle Swimmers can keep improving.

We may also have a videographer flying out who will be making a film all about Likkle Swimmers in the hope that we can spread awareness of what we are doing in the community.

We wanted to find a way for the teachers to gain employment all year round, even when our programs were not running, and so Javin, our lead teacher, has started up private lessons on a Saturday at the sports park pool. These lessons are supported by, but not run by Likkle Swimmers, and Javin arranges them all himself.

Javin commented 'The private lesson have not been going bad at all, and should be considered as a success. It started off a bit slow at first, then grew to be more fruitful, as most businesses do. It may not be the case where all the swimmers are able to attend every week, but the progress in their learning is still visible when they do. It is expected that children who swim at a certain stage with me, will progress ahead of their peers due to improvement in the practicing. The vision of Likkle Swimmers family still stands strong, as children are now learning to swim during the Easter break, the summer break and basically the rest of the year now. Our impact on the community and others will stand for an eternity.'



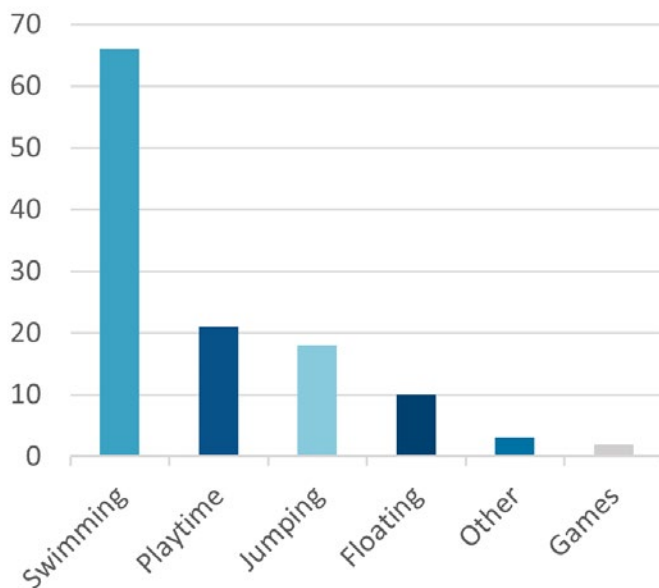
# Feedback



## Children

121 of the Children told us what they learned and how much fun they had.

### What do you like doing the most at Likkle Swimmers?



### Did you learn lots at Likkle Swimmers?

Yes- 15, Maybe- 5, No- 0

### Would you come back next year?

Yes- 115, Maybe- 6, No- 0

### Children's comments

- I love you
- More time for each session
- I appreciate that each teacher took time and assisted me despite my fear
- I would like to swim more and I enjoyed the park also
- I had lots of fun and I learnt a lot I can't wait for next year
- Thank you for teaching us new things about swimming each day
- I love all the teachers
- Play time is the best
- I appreciate your efforts for teaching us to swim and I'm a lot more confident
- A million thank yous to the team, and a whole heap of appreciation and love for the teachers!





# Feedback



## Parents

156 of the Parents expressed how Likkle Swimmers had benefitted their child.

### Did you use our transport?

Yes- 26%, No- 74%

### How would you rate the transport service?

9.8 out of 10, with no improvement suggestions given apart from a couple to be picked up right by their gate. Positive comments on how on time they were, great communication and awesome service.

### Would you recommend Likkle Swimmers to a friend?

100% said yes

### Do you think your child has become more confident?

94% said yes

### If we offered private lessons, would you be interested in paying?

Yes- 79%, Maybe- 17%, No- 4%

### Parent Comments

- My son was really afraid of the water but thanks to Freddy and Javin he has gained so much water confidence and I'm happy for this program.
- The program is very good. Many young children and adults learn a new skill while having fun. The program is highly appreciated by many.
- The teachers were patient and kind.
- I think you should get some sponsors on board for this great initiative so when it end you can put on a treat/funday for the kids or even let parents help contribute.
- I believe that this venture is a great venture I hope that this continues because I was there with my child for majority of the lessons and I seen where the kids have grown in confidence and their swim skills. Keep up the good work guys and all the teachers were amazing.
- Thanks to the Likkle Swimmers. Free swimming lessons are greatly appreciated.
- This program is awesome and so needed at this time. Well done to the team and liking forward to participating next time .
- The teachers are angels sent from above. Thank you all very much. ♥ ♥
- Thank you for introducing swimming to my daughter, she no longer fearful of swimming.
- Big thanks to all who made this possible for our children. My daughter have a little disability and every one made her (and myself) feel very comfortable. Thanks to all the staff.
- Great Great job by all the teachers. You guys did well. Thank you so much for allowing my children to participate. My children are overjoyed when they come home in the evenings from swimming classes. See you guys next year.
- Little swimmers is wonderful organization, the teacher are good with the kids. I developed the confidence that I don't even have to watch my child when he is swimming any more. I think the private swim lesson is a good idea because I would definitely allow my children to attend. I would as like to take the opportunity to same thanks to everyone at likkle swimmers. I know a lot of work and planning was up into this program and I am forever grateful for this opportunity.
- The best thing to happen in St. Elizabeth for the kids.

In 2022 we started our partnership with Swim Tayka whom we regard as like-minded and akin to our philosophy of making swimming available to all in the pursuit of reducing drowning incidents throughout the world.

They have helped us in many ways so far in expanding Likkle Swimmers and helping us to be more self sustainable in the future. One of the things Swim Tayka do is find and send out volunteers, who are qualified swim teachers, for two weeks each year. They support our Jamaican teachers by passing on knowledge and skills, whilst our Jamaican teachers can also share what they have learnt.

This year, we had our first 3 volunteers; Fiona, Becci and Laura. Cacona villa in Old Wharf, Treasure Beach was able to host them, and will host them next year as well, we are really thankful for their support.

Becci said “a life changing experience both for the children and for me. Such an honour to be able to help these kids.”

Fiona said “It was an amazing experience to be part of, everyone was so friendly and welcoming, and the accommodation provided was stunning. We were able to share our skills and teaching practices with the Likkle Swimmers teachers and pupils, but they also taught us activities that we have brought back to our lessons in the UK.

I wouldn't hesitate to recommend this experience to anyone, the fund raising isn't easy but what you get back from the whole experience is huge, I was very sad to leave, and will never forget my time in Treasure Beach.”

Laura said “Having had this experience with Likkle Swimmers have given me a lot and I'm very grateful I've got to know all these amazing kids as well as the teachers! Swapping ideas, seeing how lessons go there and learning just as much as I was teaching will stay with me for my whole life and I'm glad I was part of something that will be remembered hopefully!”

We attended the Swim Tayka Gala Dinner at the RNLI college, and were able to meet with other projects around the world working with Swim Tayka to help prevent drowning and also so passionate about teaching swimming and water safety.

We were also able to meet some of the relay team who swam the English channel in September for Team Jamaica, what an achievement! and our very own trustee Camilla will be completing this challenge as part of a team in 2023!



# Transport



*Providing transportation is vital to the success of the program as it enables children to attend who may not otherwise have been able to get to the pool.*

Likkle Swimmers has been very lucky in having **Pete and Mario**, a father and son team that have their own transport company, offering airport pickups and tourist attraction days out etc. They have worked with us since 2018, and their support means that we can provide free transportation to children in and around the Treasure Beach community. They are trusted and respected by the community and provide incredible support to us.



*We asked Mario about his experience of Likkle Swimmers...*

“Likkle swimmers is a blessing to the community and to my father in numerous ways, it has helped every single person involved both employees, swimmers and a lot of persons involved in the community.

‘I’ve seen person born and grown by the beach side and still can’t swim but Likkle swimmers is here in our community to change that, over the years of swimming lessons I’ve seen kids developed their swimming skills in some very tremendous ways and I can now see some very strong swimmers who were scared to even get into the water when they just started Likkle swimmers it boosts their confidence and knowledge when it comes onto swimming and they now enjoy doing it as a hobby.

The kids are very happy to come to lessons, some kids is even ready hours before their lessons, and waiting on us to come pick them up.

Likkle swimmers has helped me and my father in so many ways and we are as grateful for it as much as the kids that is doing the lessons, not just for financial reasons but the opportunities we get to work with these amazing people and kids. Transporting these kids has been a blast and they always put a smile on my face with their personalities and seeing them run towards the vehicle in excitement to go to classes and them being so impatient to reach always gets me. Likkle swimmers has also helped us financially especially during covid when their wasn’t much work going on, we also get work from them outside of transportation for kids.

Me and my father are grateful for each and every blessing and opportunity that Likkle swimmers has given us and I’m happy to be apart of the journey and development of the charity.”

# Likkle Swimmers

*is supported by*



**Myco Meditations**

Our team member Beccy is really proud of Likkle Swimmers and likes to share our work in the community with Myco Meditations guests. It's a psilocybin retreat in Jamaica that heals mental health issues. Thank you so much to the Myco Meditations guests for their kind donations, which have been an incredible help in helping Likkle Swimmers to grow.



**Robert and Sons**

"We wanted to make sure that ALL the children could take part in lessons, so for every full priced pair of swim shorts we sell, we donate a pair to those that need them. There is nothing more we love than creating memories with our Robert and Son shorts, and we hope the community of Treasure Beach will get as much enjoyment out of them as we do making them!"



**PCMF**

PCMF is committed to building a world where children from all backgrounds can thrive in a safe environment. Since 2012, close to 1,000,000 people have benefitted from the Learn to Swim, Water Safety and Sport & Education programmes in 41 countries. They have kindly helped us financially last summer to keep the program running in the right direction.



**Retail & Asset Solutions (RAS)**

Our co-founder Keith has shared the Likkle Swimmers Charity cause with his colleagues at RAS who have helped raise funds by supporting and competing in a Charity Golf Day in the UK and providing a raffle prize as well as holding an Easter raffle.



**U.N.I Training**

A wellness retreat from Canada that visits Treasure Beach for the triathlon have been really kind and raised a generous amount of money for us, which enabled us to put working showers in the changing rooms, which has made an enormous difference!



**Murray Uniforms**

A big thank you to everyone at Murray uniforms for supplying all of our personalised t-shirts for the children.

# Fundraising

*How can you support Likkle Swimmers in 2023?*

- Through our **2023 Campaign Page** at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/likkleswimmers2023>
- Through purchasing from our **amazon wishlist** - this includes a range of items for swimming, as well as items that will be used to create packs for our teachers to say thank you for all of their hard work <https://amzn.eu/5D8uyFh>
- By **donating second hand swimwear** - either by contacting us for our UK address, or by contacting us for a place to leave in Treasure Beach.
- By **sponsoring a teacher in 2023** for \$700USD, and you will receive your name or business logo on the back of their teaching top that they wear for swimming and around the village - contact us for more details
- By **signing up to amazon smile** - free to do, and means we get a small percentage back on every purchase you make!

It's going to be another exiting year and we hope to continue the work alongside Swim Tayka and the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation for which we are extremely grateful for all their support!




Updates will be available across our social media channels and website throughout the year, please follow us!

Generate **free donations** for us when you shop online at hundreds of stores simply visit one of the links below to get started!

 @likkleswimmers

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[www.giveasyoulive.com/join/likkle-swimmers](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/likkle-swimmers)



<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/likkleswimmers/>

Thank you for your support, you make these smiles happen...

