**Okehampton Otters at the Two Counties**

The 16th and 17th March saw Okehampton Otters swimmers back in the pool at the Plymouth Life Centre. The Two Counties meet was the latest event in the swimming calendar which sees swimmers attend from across Devon and Cornwall. 11 Otters swam over the 2 days with 66 individual entries ranging from 50-400m incorporating all 4 strokes. The weekend’s swimmers were Brianna Barlow-Endacott, Arabella Boxall-Leggett, Grace Bradford, Elsa Burrow, Abi Graves, Annie Marrison, Finley Molyneux, Francisco Rodgrigues Martins, Daisy Rowe, Zola Webber, and Ben Webster. Zola, age 9, competed with Otters for the first time and Arabella and Brianna had their first go at competing at a 400m distance in the freestyle.

Expertly support by Head Coach, Matthew Henry, and Team Managers Claire and Jude, from our 66 individual entries, swimmers achieved an incredible 59 PBs. A huge total of 5:45.55s was shaved from qualifying times with Arabella as the “biggest looser”; knocking a whopping 1:07.31s off her personal times. We took home 10 gold medals, eight silvers, and one bronze with a further six4th place finishes, eight 5ths, and four 6ths. Annie earned a hat trick of golds in the 50m, 100m, and 200m butterfly and Ben achieved gold in seven out of his eight entries!

After the meet, Matthew Henry said “What a fantastic weekend of racing. Otters swimmers produced collectively an impressive display of results, with almost every single race achieving personal best times. It’s great to see the work in training coming into effect. We look forward to getting back to training to look to improve for the next one!”

On poolside swimmers were encouraged to join in with mass Congas and renditions of the Macarena and YMCA – demonstrating exceptional dance moves as well as swimming techniques. Finally, a big well done to Craig Boxall, proud Dad to Arabella, who completed his first day of judges training, with Claire Graves also doing a day as a judge. It was a busy weekend!