



St Mary & St Pancras C. E. Primary School

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Headteacher **Jules Belton**, Deputy Headteacher: **Lucy Heard**

15.07.22

Dear Parents and Carers,

Met Office Red Heat Alert

The Met Office has issued a Red warning of **extreme heat for Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th July.**

The alert says that 'illness and death may occur among the fit and healthy, and not just in high-risk groups'. 'It means substantial changes in working practices and daily routines will be required'. The likelihood of the transport system functioning normally is low and there could be other implications for other services / infrastructure.

The Government's Health and Safety Executive (HSE) states there is a responsibility from employers to ensure conditions are "reasonable" in a workplace for their staff.

The ambulance service is on black alert, which means long delays for 999 responses. We had to wait 40 minutes for an ambulance on Tuesday.

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The areas we have had to consider are:

- The temperature of classrooms-currently running at least +5 degrees on outside temperatures (it is due to be 40 degrees on Monday)
- The flow of air through the school
- Access to fans and air conditioners (no use of fans above 35 degrees)
- The safety of using the outdoor spaces
- The potential risk to children and staff of heat stroke and other heat-related illnesses including asthma
- The potential implications for children who may be better off in school than remaining at home
- The routes that staff use to get to and from school.

As a result, we will take the following course of action next week:



- We strongly recommend that you think about your child and whether it is safer to keep them out of very hot classrooms /you can take them somewhere cooler
- We advise that the EYFS children should not attend as young children are unable to regulate their own temperature
- **Any absence on Monday or Tuesday, where parents feel that it is necessary to keep children at home due to the heat, will be authorised.**
- **School will now be closed to ALL pupils at 12:30 pm on Monday and Tuesday, even if you returned your slip earlier this week. The temperatures are unprecedented and we have a duty for the health and safety of children and staff.**

The forecast for Wednesday onwards is for much cooler temperatures and so school will be open on Wednesday onwards. Normal expectations of punctuality and attendance will resume.

As you will appreciate, the situation is unprecedented and we have not taken these decisions lightly. It is essential that we do all we can to ensure that everyone's health and safety is the utmost priority.

Thank you for your understanding and support,

Jules Belton: Headteacher

William Hall: Chair of Governors

Sam Hopcroft: Chair of Governors