

St Mark's C.E. Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Due to the current extreme heat and the forecast for very high temperatures over the coming days, we are making temporary adjustments to support the wellbeing of our pupils and staff.

Unfortunately, the year 6 visit to Farnborough Sixth Form College tomorrow has been cancelled due to the weather. The children will be expected to come into school as usual tomorrow morning.

What You Need to Know about the next few days:

- **Optional Early Collection:** On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, you have the option to collect your child early at 1:05pm, after they have eaten lunch at school. This arrangement is entirely optional, and we will continue to operate as normal for those families who wish their children to remain in school for the full day. These afternoon absences will be fully authorised under these exceptional circumstances.

If you do wish to collect your child early at 1:05, please wait at the normal gates which will be opened at 1:00. Please then wait on the High Street playground as normal and the teachers will then dismiss the children to those parents and sign them out. No child will be able to leave the site without an adult. If you wish to nominate another parent to collect your child on your behalf, you must email the school office in advance.

- **School Remains Open:** For parents who are unable to collect their children early, school will remain open as normal until 3.20. We will continue to supervise and care for all remaining children safely inside the coolest parts of the building. Any children who stay in school during the afternoons will take part in calm, quiet activities.
- **Lunch Provision:** Normal lunchtime arrangements will apply. All children, whether staying or leaving at 1:05, will receive their lunch or eat their packed lunches as usual.
- **After-School Clubs:** Ace Kids after-school care provision will still run but all school staff led clubs are cancelled this week.
- **Uniform:** For the duration of this week (22 – 26 June), when the high temperatures are forecast, we are relaxing our uniform expectations and children may wear their PE kit and trainers. Sun hats should also be worn to school.



Please be assured that we are also taking a number of measures to keep all children safe:

- Encouraging children to drink water regularly throughout the day and providing additional opportunities to refill bottles
- Reducing strenuous activities, including adapting PE and limiting time outdoors during the hottest parts of the day
- Making use of shaded areas and keeping children indoors where appropriate
- Ensuring classrooms are kept as cool as possible
- Monitoring children closely for any signs of heat-related illness

What we ask from parents

Please support us by:

- Sending your child in with several full named water bottles
- Applying sun cream before school (we recommend a high SPF)
- Sending sun cream in if your child is able to apply their own
- Ensuring your child has a hat
- Letting us know if your child has any medical conditions affected by heat

Thank you so much for your continued support and understanding during this very hot weather. We know that any changes we make can have an impact on family routines, and we really do appreciate your flexibility. Please be reassured that every decision we make is carefully considered, with the safety and wellbeing of both the children and our staff at the heart of everything we do.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Wright
Executive Headteacher