

The Oldershaw School

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17th July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Red & Amber Weather Warnings – Extreme Heat Warning

There have been too many occasions in recent years where I have had to write to parents and carers regarding emergency measures required to keep pupils and staff safe and unfortunately, today is another such occasion but this time I am writing to you regarding the extreme heat weather warning currently in place having received some additional advice from the DfE.

Over the course of the weekend, the temperatures have risen substantially and will continue to do so until Tuesday. Currently, the forecasted temperatures for the Wallasey area are:

- **Monday: 32°C – could feel like 35°C**
- **Tuesday: 33°C – could feel like 35°C**
- **Wednesday: 19°C**

In light of these extreme temperatures and the Met Office's **warning of extreme heat** indicating population-wide adverse health effects leading to serious illness or danger to life, I have no alternative but to modify the activities planned for Monday and Tuesday as follows:

Monday – Whole School Activity Day

This is a valuable day on our school calendar, with huge amounts of planning from our PE Department and excitement amongst children. However, the original plans would have entailed pupils being outside for 3 hours, which would be dangerous. Therefore, the plans have been amended to prevent pupils being exposed to heat during the hottest part of the afternoon:

- 8.30 → 12.35: Reducing to 1-hour sessions, with opportunities for shade and hydration.
- 12:35: Extended lunchtime providing shaded areas for students to sit.
- **14:00 pm: pupils dismissed from school.** This early finish is to allow pupils to travel home before the hottest part of the afternoon. We will monitor the situation carefully and may allow an earlier finish if needed.
- Parents and carers wishing for their child to remain in school until our usual finish time of 3pm are able to do so: **please email schooloffice@oldershaw.wirral.sch.uk before 11am on Monday to indicate that you want your child to remain in school where they will be supervised.**

Tuesday – Trips Day

It is with great sadness that I have no alternative but to postpone the planned trips until the new academic year. All year groups would have been required to travel in the heat, which is against government guidance through Red Warning Areas, and in Blackpool there is minimal opportunities for shade. Chester Zoo have announced they are closing for the next two days, 18th & 19th, due to the weather. We are working with trip providers to reschedule the trips and we will contact you with new dates as soon as we are able.

Pupils can attend school as normal on Tuesday but are not required to wear school uniform – they should dress appropriately for the weather as temperatures in classrooms will be uncomfortably warm throughout the day. We understand that some parents may decide that they are better able to keep children cool at home on Tuesday; absences for this reason will be authorised.

Wednesday – Final Day of Term

With the temperature dropping significantly on Wednesday, we will go ahead as planned with form parties and celebration assemblies. We will retain the relaxation of uniform for the final day of term.

Pupils will be dismissed to begin the summer holidays at 12.30.

Please can I stress to parents and carers to ensure that your child is appropriately prepared for the coming days: they should be dressed coolly including a hat, arrive at school already wearing sunscreen and have a refillable water bottle so that we can support them to stay hydrated.

I appreciate that these changes will be disappointing for both staff and children alike, but the priority must be the welfare of pupils and staff as we try to manage these unprecedented temperatures. Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this letter, please contact your child's Progress Leader.

Jon Bush

Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JB', written over a horizontal line.