



15/7/22

Weather Warning – Extreme Heat

Dear Parents,

We have been closely monitoring the weather forecast for early next week. An amber weather warning for extreme heat is now in place across the West Midlands for Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

High temperatures can pose a significant health risk to young children. Children cannot control their body temperature as efficiently as adults and so can be at increased risk of ill-health. Heat-related illness can range from mild heat stress to potentially life-threatening heatstroke. The main risk from heat is dehydration. Schools are required to take appropriate precautions to minimise the risks of heat stress, heat exhaustion or heatstroke.

With this in mind, we would now like to share our thoughts and arrangements for next Monday and Tuesday. The following measures are in place:

- Children encouraged to wear summer clothes.
- Children asked to bring in extra water/squash from home (please ensure these are brought in full of water/squash). Children are able to refill water bottles during the day.
- Changes to the school curriculum. There will be no PE lessons on Monday and Tuesday.
- Changes to break and lunchtimes. There will be no games/activities which require physical exertion. Gazebos will be erected to provide additional shade on the school field.
- Y6 BBQ will still take place and we are working to make sure their space is fully shaded.
- Y6 leavers' trip will take place (this is indoors)
- Attendance trip will still take place (this is indoors)

In addition to these measures, we are giving parents the option to collect their child/children at 12:30pm on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th July. We have created a series of questions and answers to explain this arrangement further.

Early Collection on Monday and Tuesday – Questions and Answers

Is West Heath Primary School closing early on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th July?

No, school will continue to be open as normal on Monday and Tuesday. The early collection is entirely optional. Many families, perhaps due to work commitments, will be unable to collect their children at 12:30pm. These children should attend school as normal.

Why is West Heath Primary School suggesting a 12:30pm collection?

Reducing the number of children in school during the hottest part of the day will allow us to put additional wellbeing measures in place. For example, we have some classrooms with air-conditioning, depending on the number of children remaining, we would combine classes so children are working in air-conditioned classrooms during the afternoon.

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If I collected my child/children at 12:30pm, will they miss learning?

We would expect children collected at 12:30pm to be working from home on Monday and Tuesday afternoon. Your child's class teacher will signpost children to The Oaks Academy to undertake work appropriate to their stage of learning.

I can't collect at 12:30pm, can I collect at a different time?

Please avoid collecting at other times, this will create additional pressure on the office staff. We are proposing two set collection times of 12:30pm or usual end of day collection times. These measures are only in place for Monday and Tuesday; the forecast for Wednesday onwards is for temperatures to return those more typical of a warm summer's day.

I plan to collect my child **at 12:30pm** on **Monday** and/or **Tuesday**. What should I do next?

Please fill out the attached form by 6pm on Sunday evening so that we can ensure that arrangements are made for the collection of your children.

Please also ensure the person collecting your child knows their password, if it is someone who doesn't usually pick them up from school.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hooper
Head teacher