

Barrs Court Primary School



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Dear parents/carers,

You will have seen that the weather is likely to get hotter over the weekend and into early next week.

As a school, we do have minimum temperatures below which we have to close, but not maximum temperatures. Today we received official notification from the Council that an Amber heat warning has been put in place for Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th July with temperatures forecast for the 35 to 36 degrees during the hottest part of the day. At this stage the guidance does not stipulate that schools should close but to take measures to manage risk during the day. So, school will be open as normal on Monday and Tuesday.

As a school, we do spend a lot of time **mitigating risks**. In relation to heat, we have a lot of standard heat mitigation that we follow, such as:

- reducing large crowds in shared internal spaces
- ensuring children drink more,
- utilising shade inside and out,
- increased use of fans,
- change the timetable for some of our lessons and events to avoid the hotter times,
- try to ensure pupils are sensibly dressed and have suitable sun protection

Specifically for Monday and Tuesday, we will add the extra mitigations:

- Pupils will have a morning break – at their usual time*. The day is not due to be its hottest at this time. Staff will be extra vigilant and pupils will also have been reminded to wear appropriate clothing, drink more and make use of shade. We will also try to limit energetic games. **If the temperature or sun intensity is judged to be too high even at this earlier part of the day then this will be reviewed and break may be cancelled.*
- Lunchtime break will follow the 20/20/20 model*, where pupils had 20 minutes to eat lunch in the hall (the same as they usually have), 20 minutes outside and 20 minutes in the classroom, with blinds drawn, windows open, fans on and no energetic activities inside.
**If the temperature or sun intensity is judged to be too high even at this earlier part of the day then this will be reviewed and lunch may be cancelled.*
- PE lessons will be judged on the day / time and will avoid strenuous activity.
- Classes will be able to access the hall during the school day for cooling periods if required.

Please can you ensure that your child has:

- sun hat,
- Children can wear a school PE kit on Monday and Tuesday
- water bottle with a name on ideally - access to drinking water is available at all times of the day,
- If you wish you may put sun cream on your child before coming to school. They can bring sun cream to school as usual. Your child can top up their sun cream if they wish before going outside. Please practice self-application at home.

Currently, we can see no advantage that may outweigh the potential inconvenience in closing earlier as the difference in temperature between 1pm and 3.15pm is forecast to be one degree higher. **However, if the Local Authority advice changes regarding closing schools or early finishing then we will alert you by text/email.**

Thank you for your support.

Daniel Webster

Headteacher