

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hot Weather Arrangements

I am writing to outline the arrangements we will have in place over the coming days to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff.

This is a period of heat that is becoming more common and as such we must accept that schools will not close unless directed to by the DFE, as a school we are taking a proactive and precautionary approach but remain confident that the planned activities for the week will continue. Students and staff have been briefed, and it would be hugely beneficial if parents supported the stance that it may be uncomfortable in this heat but it is not a reason for the country to come to a standstill. The current temperatures for the rest of the week are forecast to be relatively stable at no higher than 31/32 degrees during school hours.

Smith's Wood has come a long way in the last three years, and maintaining high standards has been a key factor in that success. We must continue to demonstrate our value of Resilience.

In addition, please refrain from calling up reception, the safeguarding team or sending MCAS messages about the arrangements. Staff are having valuable time wasted when the communication has been clear.

Early Finish

From today through to Thursday, the school day will finish early at **2.00pm**. This will help reduce exposure during the hottest part of the day. Please ensure appropriate arrangements are in place for your child's onward journey.

Uniform

A temporary relaxation of uniform expectations will apply:

- **Blazers are not required**
- Hats may be worn outdoors
- PE kit **WILL NOT** be allowed at any point – SWA PE kit is black and the materials are thicker than white cotton shirts. It makes no sense to expose students to attire which would be less safe.

Keeping Students Safe and Comfortable

Staff and site teams are taking active steps to keep the building as cool as possible, including:

- Ventilating classrooms early in the morning
- Keeping blinds and curtains closed on sun-facing windows

- Limiting heat-generating equipment
- Using cooler areas of the building for lessons where needed

In addition:

- Outdoor activities, including PE, will be adapted or suspended if necessary
- Supervised indoor spaces will be available at break and lunchtime

Hydration

It is essential that all students bring a **refillable water bottle** each day, and staff will regularly remind students to drink. Please also ensure your child applies sunscreen before school each day.

We will continue to monitor conditions closely and review arrangements as needed, particularly if the temperature does rise over the coming days.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep all members of our school community safe during this period of extreme weather.

Yours Sincerely



Mr S Huntington
Principal