

# Court Fields School

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Headteacher: Mrs P Matthews

CEO: Mrs L Heath

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you're well and managing to keep somewhat cool in this hot weather.

I have been in discussion today with our Trust CEO, Lorraine Heath, and have also consulted the advice from Somerset Council, following the Met Office escalating their Weather Warning to Red level. This means they are predicting extreme heat, with an 'exceptional spell of hot and humid weather' forecast for Wednesday and Thursday this week, including in the Wellington area.

**As you know, our school was mainly built in the 1960s and 70s, with little internal circulation area and many classrooms that are undersized, along with many south-westerly facing windows. I have measured temperatures throughout the day today across the school, with most classrooms recording levels in excess of 31 degrees by lunchtime. My priority is to ensure the health and safety of staff and students, and, although we have already put in place mitigations, such as PE kit, water stations, room changes, fans in classrooms etc, we will need to take further action with the temperatures predicted to hit 38 degrees.**

**Therefore, I have taken the decision to shorten the school day on Wednesday and Thursday, with a finish at 12:40pm. This will ensure that we balance face to face education with reducing exposure to extreme temperatures in classrooms during the afternoon, when the heat accumulation means that temperatures are at their highest.**

Whilst I understand the difficulties that such a change to the school day places on families, I must prioritise student and staff safety and the level of the Red Weather Warning indicates that there is significant risk.

**Timings and Lunch:** Students will attend periods 1 to 3 onsite as normal. They will be registered at the end of Period 3 by their teacher, and can then go straight home at 12:40pm or get lunch in the Canteen, which will be open until 1pm.

**School Transport:** Staff will supervise any bus students remaining onsite during periods 4 and 5. Students who take the bus can go home at 12:40pm if you are able to make alternative travel arrangements. Please ask your child to meet Mrs Westwood in the canteen at 8:35am tomorrow, so that we can confirm who will be with us on Wednesday and Thursday afternoon.



**Trips, Visits, Events and Fixtures:** GWR have cancelled the Insight into Apprenticeship Trip scheduled for tomorrow (Tuesday), all sports fixtures have been cancelled following Somerset Council's advice and the weather warning, the Singing Festival on Thursday is cancelled.

**Key Worker/Vulnerable Students:** Please use the link here by 12pm tomorrow to request that your child remains in school to undertake supervised schoolwork from 12:40-3:15pm on Wednesday and Thursday if you are not able to provide childcare. [Key Worker June 26 - Request Place at School](#)

**The longer range forecast is for cooler temperatures, although we have decided to continue with students being able to wear PE kit at least into next week. Please do support us by ensuring that students do not wear very short shorts, as they are not appropriate for school, and that they wear black socks for PE as for normal uniform.**

I have also already undertaken work to cost out the provision of appropriate air conditioning systems to upgrade the ventilation in B Block, Learning Support and A Block, which are the areas affected most in hot weather. As you will anticipate this is at a considerable cost and will need to be undertaken as a rolling programme of work, which will benefit us in the medium term, but not immediately.

**As you will anticipate, this is a dynamic situation, with many schools putting out details this evening, so if there are any further developments, including impacts of staff who have children for whom key worker provision is not being put in place, I will let you know tomorrow morning. I have asked staff to alert me by 9am tomorrow so that we can assess any impact on our plans.**

Thank you for your support, as always. Keep safe in the heat over the next few days.

Best wishes

Polly



**Mrs Polly Matthews**

**Headteacher**

**Court Fields School**