

24th June 2026

Dear Parents and Friends of Castle Hill,

We are continuing to review and manage the Red Alert heatwave on an almost hourly basis and wanted to give you an update. As you may know, our two sites are very different, and we are therefore treating them separately.

At **Greenbank Campus**, although the site is hot, the natural ventilation and air-conditioning are keeping most classrooms at a manageable temperature. However, in the rooms without air-conditioning, temperatures have reached **32°C (90°F)**. Since Greenbank opened at 08:35 this morning, we have sent one child home with heat-related symptoms.

From monitoring the forecast, we know that temperatures are expected to rise further over the next two days, so conditions are likely to worsen. In addition, because we lock up the buildings at 6pm, it means they cannot cool down overnight.

At **Rooksdown Campus**, the situation is more challenging. The building is not as well-ventilated and is very well insulated, which unfortunately traps heat inside and there is no air-conditioning in any classroom. To remain informed, we have been monitoring classroom temperatures since Tuesday, and they have been gradually increasing.

Today, Rooksdown classroom temperatures were:

- **8:00am – 29°C (84°F)**
- **Midday – 32°C (90°F)**
- **2:00pm – 33°C (91°F)**

Since Rooksdown opened at 08:35 this morning, we have sent **13 children** and **5 members of staff** home with heat-exhaustion symptoms.

Behaviour and Wellbeing

We also want to make you aware that we are seeing a noticeable deterioration in the behaviour of some pupils across both sites. This is not unexpected in extreme conditions. The sustained heat is placing additional stress on children, and many are finding it harder to regulate their emotions, concentrate, or manage their frustration. Staff are supporting pupils as best they can, but the rising temperatures are clearly having an impact on wellbeing.

Staffing and Provision for June 25th and June 26th

Given the current conditions, we are expecting that some staff members may not be in school tomorrow due to their own health or the health needs of their children. This will further impact our ability to maintain normal provision.

To keep ratios safe and manageable, we anticipate that we may need to **mix classes and possibly year groups**. As a result, we will not be teaching the normal curriculum. Instead, we will be adapting the provision to ensure children remain safe, supervised, and as comfortable as possible in the heat.

Transition Morning

We are currently reviewing our planned **transition morning on Friday 26th June**. Given the extreme heat, we do not feel that the current climate is conducive to a positive experience for the children. This is a crucial initial meeting, and it is important that it feels calm, welcoming, and enjoyable. We will update families as soon as a final decision is made tomorrow. The outcome may differ between our Greenbank and Rooksdown Campuses.

The Red Weather Warning remains in place for **Thursday 25th June and the predicted temperatures for Friday 26th June is 30°C (86°F)**. While we want to keep both sites open for families who need us, we feel it is important to be honest with especially our Rooksdown community. We are **strongly advising families to consider keeping children at home** if they can make alternative arrangements.

For families who have no alternative, we are moving the early collection time to **12:00 midday**, before temperatures peak. Again, we are strongly advising that children are collected wherever possible. **We will remain open at both sites.**

Thank you for your understanding and support as we continue to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff.

Kind regards

Ms Willmouth, Mr Martin and the CHPS Team