



Executive Headteacher Mrs C Adams  
Head of School Mrs C McCrory  
[northbrookpa.org](http://northbrookpa.org)

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers,

**Extreme Weather Warning - School Early Closure at 12:30pm Monday 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

As we write to you, we hope you are well and enjoying the warm weather.

With that in mind, you may be aware that the Met Office has issued its first ever Red Warning for exceptional heat for the start of next week, which includes Leyland. This means we will experience an exceptionally hot spell over the two days which will impact on people and infrastructure meaning there should be substantial changes in working practices and daily routines. As a result, we have carefully considered how to ensure we maintain high standards of health and safety for all of our school community.

First of all, we have carefully considered the actions and changes in practice we would need to put in place if we were to keep the school open fully. These are outlined below which also references points taken from the Guidance for those 'Looking after school children and those in early years settings during heatwaves':

- Children should not be playing outside in extreme weather and would therefore need to be kept inside all day
- Vulnerable children and adults including those with any underlying health conditions such as epilepsy, asthma and pregnancy should not be in work/school
- Windows and other ventilation openings should be opened during the cool of early morning or preferably overnight to allow stored heat to escape from the building
- Windows and other ventilation openings should not be closed, but their openings reduced when the outdoor air becomes warmer than the air indoors
- Use outdoor sun awnings if available, or indoor blinds, but do not let solar shading devices block ventilation openings or windows
- Although there are no maximum temperatures there is a legal obligation to ensure reasonable temperatures are maintained for working conditions
- Some schools have had to close classrooms where conditions are too hot
- Children will have to stay inside at both break and lunch times

Although we can implement many of the measures outlined above, we are extremely concerned that temperatures around the school and within classrooms in particular, will not be conducive to productive learning during the hottest times of the day. We do not have air conditioning in any room within school and a significant number of classrooms get very warm in normal hot weather. With the temperatures predicted we believe they could become unbearable and dangerous (potentially in excess of 35 degrees). We do not want anybody fainting or having epileptic seizures, which are more likely in extreme weather.



An Endeavour Learning Trust School  
Registered in England  
Company Registration Number 7848372  
VAT Registration Number 125718416

 01772 421599

 [bursar@northbrook-pri.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@northbrook-pri.lancs.sch.uk)

 Bannister Drive, Leyland, Lancashire, PR25 2GB

Even those children who are less severely affected, their concentration will be diminished, their ability to learn will deteriorate and their anxiety levels will increase.

**With all of this in mind, we have made the decision to close our school early on both Monday 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 12:30pm.** This will allow us to feed the children who are entitled to free school meals and those that order a school lunch. For any children that normally bring packed lunch we are requesting that they have their lunch at home. Children are to be collected from the usual entrance/exit doors. Whilst we appreciate that this may create some challenges to parents and there may well be some who do not agree with this decision, we believe moving to a shorter day is a safer option. Any parents that feel it would be in their child's best interest to remain at home on Monday and Tuesday, for example due to difficulties in collecting children or due to their child's medical needs, we will authorise the absence.

For those children attending from 8:45am -12:30pm, we strongly advise the children to wear their PE kit on Monday & Tuesday, bring a water bottler, wear a sun hat or cap (to be removed once in school) and ensure that they apply sun cream before leaving for school. We will constantly monitor the conditions in school during the two days and will inform parents of any changes to these arrangements as early as possible.

### **Staying Safe**

Emphasis should be placed on the advice that we want all children to stay safe. This means that we strongly advise that children do not see this as an opportunity to go out with friends in the sun and certainly do not go swimming in any open water sites. In fact, the advice is to remain cool indoors and to remain hydrated.

Drowning incidents are especially high at this time of year and we continue to hear devastating stories locally about loss of life on a regular basis when people, particularly youngsters, choose to swim in open water during the warm weather. Every year people drown both at home and on holiday because they don't take simple precautions, so reaching people with water safety messages is vital. Please refer your child to the Royal Life Saving Society advice below to help avoid any tragic accidents this year.

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/summer-water-safety>

We hope you appreciate and understand the decision we have made to ensure the health and safety of all of our school community. We look forward to returning to our normal timetable on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July**, for the final two days of the school year. In the meantime, if we have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

*M Cunniffe*

Mr M Cunniffe  
**Head of School**