

# Update.....



OAKFIELD ACADEMY  
BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE

15<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Parents,

As you are aware, we have been monitoring the temperatures and classroom conditions this week due to the very hot weather conditions. We have concluded that we will need to close to pupils on Monday and will review the conditions during Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022 for Tuesday and update you further.

This week we have made the academy environment as comfortable as possible by:

- Relaxing school uniform, including sun hat and sun cream
- Avoiding physical exertion or activities
- Closure of adjustable blind and window covers
- Ventilation from 6am each day
- Use of fans
- Access to drinking water
- Adapting lessons (for example, no Bunsen burners, limited I.T. use and no cooking) to protect pupils and staff from excessive temperatures
- Stopped using classrooms that could not be cooled below 30 degrees.

Monitoring temperatures this week, the average temperature inside the academy rooms is between 4 and 5 degrees hotter than the publicised outside temperature.

The Met Office have now issued extreme weather warnings for Monday.

- We have considered finishing at 12:15pm but unfortunately the buses can't accommodate this and pupils would be walking home in the mid-day heat
- Health and Safety guidance states fans must be switched off if the room temperature reaches 35 degrees as it would increase risk to health through dehydration
- We do not have enough areas of shade during the school day particularly for over 600 pupils and 100 staff needs

If the same pattern of the classroom temperatures exceeding by 4 to 5 degrees holds, then on Monday, average class temperatures are likely to reach 40 degrees or more.

If you are a Keyworker, critical to education or care, please use Parent Pay to register for a limited number of Emergency Pupil Places for Monday. We have one, small air conditioned space on the whole site.

This decision has not been taken lightly and I apologise for the disruption it may bring to our families. Work will be set by teachers on Google Classroom but we are mindful that the stay cool advice recommends not using electronic devices due to temperature when operating!! We appreciate that Frome schools will be in different situations regarding their sites and buildings.

Please follow all the advice and keep safe and as cool as possible.

This beautiful old school building is simply not able to keep everyone cool enough! Friends of Oakfield fundraising might have to be for bringing air conditioning to more spaces next year!!

Yours sincerely

Miss E. Wilkes  
Head Teacher



Oakfield Academy  
Frome

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