

Tuesday 23rd June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Hot Weather – Early Closure

With the current heatwave and temperatures above 30°C for the rest of the week, we continue to look at what else we can do in place.

We do not have any plans to close the school. The Department for Education does not normally advise schools to close in hot weather, saying, “This is because school attendance is the best way for pupils to learn and reach their potential, and hot weather can usually be managed safely. School leaders should make sure they take any steps necessary to make sure children are safe and comfortable.”

However, many of our classrooms are exposed to the sun and therefore get hot and stuffy even with windows and doors open, blinds down and fans on, particularly in the afternoons. Having had consecutive days of hot weather and adding children to the mix does increase that stuffiness and we know that the children do struggle with this.

As such, we are offering parents the choice of early pick up from tomorrow (Wednesday 24th June) for the rest of the week. To make this go more smoothly, we ask that you complete the google form to let us know that you plan to collect early. This will help us have the children ready for a prompt collection. Link to the form is [here](#).

We will stagger pick up, from 1.30pm, concentrating on the youngest children first.

Please come during the slot of your **youngest** child to collect if you have more than one child at Westgate. You will be able to take **all** of your children in that time slot. If you are only able to come after the designated time - that is fine, but please do not come before the time slot of your youngest child.

Year Group of Youngest Child - Pick up time:

- **Reception** children: 1.30pm – 1.40pm
- **Year 1 and Year 2:** 1.40pm – 1.50pm
- **Year 3 and Year 4:** 1.50pm – 2:00pm
- **Year 5 and Year 6:** 2:00pm – 2.10pm



Pick up will be from the front of school, via the School Office. We will ask you to wait in the dining hall (in the shade!) and you will exit through the dining hall. If you do pick up early please do not bring cars down Brooklands Close as there will be families walking home.

Those children not picked up early will have some low key, non-strenuous activities to help them keep cool.

After School Club

This will run as normal.

Y6 Planet Laser and BBQ

Due to the forecast of extreme temperatures this week, we have also made the decision to postpone the Y6 end of year trip to Planet Laser. The temperature is now expected to be 35°C and not only do we not want our children to walk there and back, Planet Laser does not have air conditioning and the activity would make the children even hotter!

As such, we are looking for another day for the Laser Quest visit and BBQ – provisionally Friday 10th July but we will confirm this.

Hats and Sunscreen

Please remember to send your child to school with a sunhat and a water bottle, and apply sunscreen before you head to school. If you wish to send a named bottle of sunscreen in for your child, to apply during the day, please ensure they are able to apply it independently and remind them that they cannot share it with other children!

Other adjustments we will make in school

- Children are invited to wear their PE kits (plain t-shirt and shorts) or light coloured, loose-fitting, cotton clothing to school.
- PE sessions will be adapted or cancelled so that children do not do strenuous exercise or overheat. If they take place, they will include regular water breaks.
- At playtime and lunchtime, children will be encouraged to stay in the shade and wear hats and sunscreen.



- Free access to water bottles and children will be encouraged to drink /refill their water bottles regularly.
- Whole school and Key Stage assemblies cancelled.
- Teachers will also look out for grumpiness and will adapt and pause the lesson for a break if needed, particularly in the afternoons.
- Adults will look out for signs of tiredness, heat stress and heatstroke. There are many First Aiders in school that can check children if needed and the Office Team will phone home if there are any concerns.
- Thank you for your understanding and support.

Kind regards

Mrs Rhonda Kidd

