



Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, the ongoing extreme heat has already forced the school to close for the past two days. Unfortunately, the situation continues to be challenging, we remain in an amber alert area for tomorrow.

Despite our best efforts to manage internal temperatures, the school buildings continue to reach unsafe levels during the day. Our building is old and even with fans and mobile air conditioning units, opening windows in the morning and closing them as the temperature rises and keeping blinds closed, it is likely to reach temperatures over 30 in classrooms. We do have several air-conditioned spaces which we can make use of for some of our children. The playgrounds are excessively hot as they are very exposed, but we are able to make use of the shaded areas along the forest edge.

For these reasons, we will be **open tomorrow but closing early at 12:20pm** to protect the wellbeing of pupils and staff. Our decision for a partial opening is to ensure that there is continuity in education and provide a safe, supervised environment for our pupils. For many families, Noremarsch plays a crucial role in providing structure, safeguarding and support during the school day. By adapting our provision – including an early closure – we can carefully manage the risks associated with the heat whilst continuing to meet our duty of care to pupils. This approach allows us to balance safety with the needs of our community, ensuring pupils are supported without exposing them to the most severe conditions later in the day.

I do acknowledge that this will not please all families, please know that the decision to close (full or partially) does not come easily and we appreciate your support.

#### **Arrangements for tomorrow - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

- School will close at 12:20pm.
- Pupils who normally walk home may do so at this time. If your child requires collection, please ensure arrangements are in place.
- If your child receives a free school meal, a packed lunch will be made available.
- All after-school clubs and activities remain cancelled.

#### **Why this decision has been made**



The UKHSA continues to warn that very high temperatures pose significant risks. Dr Agostinho Sousa, Head of Extreme Events and Health Protection, has emphasised the importance of staying hydrated, avoiding the hottest part of the day, and looking out for vulnerable individuals.

The Met Office has also upgraded the weather warning to amber for tomorrow, which is defined as causing 'population-wide adverse health effects are likely to be experienced, not limited to those most vulnerable to extreme heat, leading to potential serious illness or danger to life'.

With temperatures inside classrooms rising rapidly once the children are in, we cannot safely operate a full school day under the current conditions.

### **Supporting your child**

Please ensure your child:

- Brings plenty of water
- Wears cool, lightweight clothing
- Avoids prolonged time in direct sunlight where possible

We understand how challenging these conditions are, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation as we respond to this exceptional weather event. If you have concerns about sending your child in during this ongoing heatwave, please let us now and we will be sympathetic in our attendance coding.

With Warmth,

Hilary MacMeekin  
**Headteacher**