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17th July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you all will know, we are in the first ever red alert heatwave, and temperatures on Monday and Tuesday are predicted to break previous records in some parts of the country. We wrote to you all on Friday 15th July 2022, outlining our advice and response to the weather expected on Monday 18th July and Tuesday 19th July 2022. Since writing that letter, forecasts for our locality predict even higher temperatures.

In response to the forecasted further rises in temperature, the TrustEd CSAT Alliance team has met with headteachers this morning, and together we have considered our particular schools and our local circumstances, alongside advice from the Met Office, NHS, the DfE and others.

From a health and safety / medical perspective we have considered:

- the impact of extreme heat on all young people, including being especially mindful of our youngest pupils.
- the impact of the heat on all staff, but especially older staff and also those undertaking essential physical tasks necessary to keep schools running (including kitchen, ancillary and site staff).
- information regarding the pressures on local services and our local NHS in particular.

There are some logistical matters we have considered too. In terms of our own local / school perspectives, we have no air-conditioned buildings, and our schools are mostly built in the 1950s and 60s with flat roofs and many long, only partially-opening windows. Many of our schools serve rural catchments with many pupils being transported by fairly long bus journeys.

However, we also do recognise that if we fully close a school that this brings logistical difficulties to some working families. Considering all of this, we have therefore made the following decision collectively as a group of schools:

- **Most parents/carers should keep their children at home**, where it is safe and practical to do so, on Monday 18th July and Tuesday 19th July 2022.
- Our schools will remain **OPEN**, but only for the children of parents/carers who do not feel it is safe and practical for their children to work from home.
- Parents who decide to send their child/ren to school on Monday 18th July and Tuesday 19th July 2022, will do so because of their particular circumstances (such as unchangeable work commitments). In these cases, headteachers will arrange for suitable supervision in the cooler parts of school buildings.
- In all of our schools, education will move on-line for Monday 18th July and Tuesday 19th July 2022 (see details below).
- School buses will run as normal, so should be available for the small number of pupils who need them.

Sarah Godden, our CEO, says that she is aware that any decision of this sort brings a mixed response, but she hopes it is understood that the aim is:

- to take our duty of care to pupils and staff seriously;
- reduce the burden on local emergency services where we can;
- to support the minority of families who need us to accommodate their children over these two days.

She also asks that I pass on her thanks to students, parents/carers and staff for their understanding and support.

Our specific arrangements are as follows:

- Please complete the online form confirming arrangements for your child/ren, found by clicking on this link: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FVWP7A/>
- Work for students will be set via ClassCharts (there may be some delay in work being set for lessons 1 and 2 as teachers make the necessary adaptations to their planned lesson).

We expect those children who are not coming into school to stay at home. If parents/carers are unable to ensure this is the case, for whatever reason, their child/ren should be in school on Monday and Tuesday.

This letter was sent out via ParentMail, but not all parents have notifications enabled on their ParentMail/email apps, so they may not see it today. Please will you make the parents you know of children in our school are aware of this letter, so they check their emails and complete the online form as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support, we hope you and your families stay safe over the next few days.

Yours sincerely,

Senior Leadership Team

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