



St John's
CE Primary School

Isaiah 40:31 'They will soar on wings like eagles'

Head Teacher: Mrs T. Cansdale

Deputy Head: Mrs M. Milne

Wednesday 24th June

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to reassure you about the measures we are taking in school during the current period of extreme heat. The safety and wellbeing of our children is always our top priority, and we are carefully adapting our routines to keep everyone as comfortable as possible.

What we are doing in school

- Ensuring children drink plenty of water and refilling their bottles regularly throughout the day
- Reducing time spent outside, particularly during the hottest parts of the day
- Using only shaded areas when outdoors – for example, at lunchtime today children were outside for a time, as outside was less stuffy than inside. But they remained in shaded parts of the yard and sat and talked to friends– we did not use the field as it was too sunny and too tempting to run in!
- Encouraging lighter activity inside and frequent rest breaks
- Ventilating classrooms early in the morning to bring in cooler air
- Turning off all our LED lights and closing blinds in the day

Despite these measures, our school building does become very warm. We can already feel a noticeable increase in temperature today compared to yesterday, and we are continuing to monitor conditions closely throughout the day and do what we can to make it less stuffy.

Recent events We are really pleased that we were able to successfully hold both Sports Mornings yesterday and today so that children and families did not miss these special occasions. This were only possible because we shortened them, adapted timings carefully, used the shaded parts of the field to seat the children and finished by 10:00am yesterday and 9:45am today before temperatures rose significantly. You will no doubt be noticing yourselves just how quickly the heat is building. EYFS Sports Morning for Nursery and Reception will happen on Monday with thankfully more typical Manchester summer weather forecast! We look forward to seeing you there (afternoon nursery attenders are welcome to come at 9am to take part too).

Visits The Y2 Fire Station visit is going ahead - Y2 are looking forward to being in the air-conditioned fire safety centre which will be a lot more comfortable than their classroom tomorrow morning! We are travelling by coach which will be hot – but it is a short trip. Our one proviso is if the Fire Service cancel on us at the last minute, if the hot weather is putting excessive demands on them – if that is the case we will text Y2 parents.

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Unfortunately we have had to cancel the Y5/6 trip to the Women's World Cup cricket tomorrow with parents and children from Y5/6 as that is a long journey on public transport and there is no shade for spectators meaning a full session (3 hours plus) of cricket in the full sun – which would not be pleasant in tomorrow's temperatures. Those going have had a separate letter with details about refunds.

Uniform We have already relaxed our uniform expectations. Children can continue to wear PE kit for the rest of the week. We understand that families may run out of specific items such as black shorts – any shorts are absolutely fine with a light coloured top.

Additional needs and medical conditions We are very mindful that some children, particularly those with medical conditions or additional needs or our very youngest children in nursery, may find hot weather especially challenging. If it is making your child feel unwell or you are concerned that they are not coping with the prolonged spell of heat, then please let the office know if your child will be absent due to ill health – as you would normally notify us. Or if it is impacting their medication or sleep, please make sure we know so we can make any adjustments. If your child is a reluctant water drinker and you are concerned about their fluid intake – please send an extra drink for them to have at lunchtime with their school dinner or packed lunch (nothing fizzy or in glass bottles please).

School will remain fully open and we will continue to provide full class provision for all children attending Thursday and Friday.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and understanding.

Please ensure your child comes to school with a water bottle, sun hat and sun cream already applied.

Kind regards,
Tracey Cansdale
Headteacher