

26th June 2026



Vyners School
Striving for Excellence

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to update you regarding arrangements for the week ahead. Hopefully, the period of intense heat is now behind us. However, I am concerned that this will not be a one-off and that schools, and particularly those with older buildings, will need to have more support in order to maintain all year round education in the future given that it is anticipated that periods of intense heat will be more common in the future.

Taking all information into account, we decided to stay open. Part of the reasoning for this is the fact that we have a newer building, opened in 2019, that has breathing buildings ([click here](#)) technology that helps to maintain a well-balanced climate throughout the year. With only four year groups in school, we were able to relocate lessons to this building or to other rooms away from the hottest parts of the school. This was fully informed by a heat risk assessment that is informed by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance and the Joint Union Heatwave Protocol ([click here](#)) that was originally published in 2022, when the south of the country experienced temperatures in excess of 40 degrees celsius.

In such circumstances, we fully understand that any decisions that we take are open to criticism. I learned very quickly when I became Headteacher in 2019 that whether it is snow, Covid or heat, it is often the case that there will be a group who disagree with the measures that you take. Some will criticise remaining open whilst others will criticise closures. However, despite this, we do listen to feedback and use it to inform our decision making. We will fully review the steps that were taken this week, update our risk assessments and protocols and ensure that we continue to try to do our very best for students, staff and families in any similar situation.

With regards to feedback, I do feel that I again need to mention parent WhatsApp groups. Whilst I will make it absolutely clear that I do not monitor these groups and will not engage with them, I continue to be dismayed by the feedback that I receive about some of the commentary that is being shared within the groups. I know this is only my opinion, but I believe that these groups should generally be positive, supportive areas for sharing information related to school matters. I would again ask anyone engaged in the establishment and admin of these groups to refer to the guidance document that I shared earlier this term ([click here](#)). Again, I acknowledge that this is only my opinion, but I do believe that opinions of headteachers should carry some weight in situations such as these.

Finally, with regards to next week, given that we are expecting significantly cooler temperatures, I can confirm that all students should revert to standard summer uniform. **This means that ties can be left at home and blazers removed for the remainder of the day in the afternoon.** I would ask parents not to send their children to school in PE kit as this would not be appropriate given the conditions.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Kind regards,

Gary Mullings
Headteacher

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