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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are aware that there has been considerable discussion regarding the decision to keep school open during the current period of hot weather, and we would like to clarify our position for our MAST schools.

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff remains our highest priority. We have carefully reviewed the latest guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and have implemented a range of measures to help keep children safe and comfortable throughout the school day. These include ensuring children have regular access to drinking water, making use of shaded areas, limiting strenuous physical activity, keeping classrooms well ventilated, and relaxing uniform expectations where appropriate.

The Department for Education's current guidance states:

"During hot weather, we don't normally advise schools to close. 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."

The DfE has not advised schools to close because of the current hot weather. Instead, schools are expected to remain open where it is safe to do so and to take reasonable steps to manage the conditions and protect the wellbeing of pupils and staff.

We recognise that families will have different perspectives on whether children should attend school during periods of hot weather. While the school remains open and has implemented measures to keep pupils safe and comfortable, parents remain free to make their own decisions regarding attendance. However, in line with national attendance regulations, where a child is absent solely because a parent has chosen to keep them at home due to the hot weather, and there is no other authorised reason for absence, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

We also recognise that many families continue to rely on the school remaining open and have expressed their appreciation that education, care and support continue to be available during this period. For many parents, school opening enables them to continue working and fulfil other important commitments, and we remain committed to serving the needs of our whole community.

We appreciate that opinions on this matter may differ. Our responsibility is to make decisions based on national guidance, local circumstances and ongoing assessments of the safety and welfare of our pupils and staff. We will continue to monitor conditions carefully and take any further action that may be required.

Thank you for your continued support, understanding and cooperation during this spell of unusually hot weather.

Kind regards,
Mr Ben Hulme



Our All Saints family shall ARISE and shine for the light of The Lord is upon us

