



Ogmore Vale Primary School

Together we soar to success

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to update you regarding arrangements for this week.

I am very conscious that school closures are not decisions that should ever be taken lightly, and I would never pursue a closure without strong justification. The school has undertaken a detailed risk assessment and, while the decision to close during periods of extreme weather ultimately rests with the Headteacher, I have also consulted with the Local Authority regarding this matter.

Over recent days, we have implemented a range of precautions and reasonable adjustments to help keep pupils and staff safe, including:

- Reduced and shortened break times, with pupils only going outside if they wished to do so.
- A sun-safety station providing sunscreen and spare sun hats.
- Allowing pupils to carry water bottles throughout the day, with access to multiple water fountains around the school.
- Relaxed uniform arrangements.

Despite these measures, I am concerned that forecast temperatures will become too high within classrooms and may cause significant discomfort and potential health risks for both pupils and staff. Temperatures are forecast to reach **37°C on Thursday**, and that is the outside temperature; classroom temperatures with 30 pupils present are likely to be considerably higher.

A number of families have already contacted the school to express concerns about children attending in such extreme conditions and have indicated that they intend to keep their children at home on Wednesday and Thursday.

The Met Office issues a **Red Warning** only in the most severe circumstances. A Red Warning indicates a danger to life due to extreme heat and is reserved for exceptional weather events that can have significant impacts on public health, transport systems and other essential services.

Having carefully considered all available information and completed a thorough risk assessment, I have made the decision to **close the school on Wednesday and Thursday**.

Unfortunately, this means that all Sports Day events will be postponed. We will communicate a new date to families as soon as possible over the next few days. The original reserve date is unavailable due to Year 6 transition activities at CCYD.

I fully appreciate that this decision may cause inconvenience and disruption for families, particularly those with work commitments. However, I genuinely believe that the risk of pupils and staff becoming unwell in school during these temperatures is high, and I am very concerned about how effectively our school building can provide a safe and comfortable learning environment during this period of extreme heat.

If any parents are upset by this decision, I would ask that they discuss their concerns directly with me rather than with members of staff. As Headteacher, I have made this decision with the support of staff, the Chair of Governors and the Local Authority. I am happy to speak with any parent who would like further explanation regarding the decision. Please contact the school office and I will return your call as soon as possible.

Staff will continue to work from home and provide learning activities for pupils through:

- **Seesaw** – Nursery and Primary classes.
- **Google Classroom** – KS2 pupils.

CARE class and LRC will be using see-saw.

Before pupils leave school today, we will ensure that all KS2 pupils know their login details. If any families with younger children are unsure how to access Seesaw, please email the school today and we will provide the necessary information.

I recognise that some schools in the area may choose to remain open. However, each school must make decisions based on its own buildings, circumstances and risk assessment. Some schools may opt for an early closure; however, this is not a practical option for us, as approximately 70 pupils travel to and from school by bus or taxi. These children could be significantly disadvantaged and may face difficulties getting home safely. Furthermore, if I do not believe the school environment is safe for pupils attending for a full day, I cannot justify suggesting that it is safe for those who rely on school transport.

Mrs Balchin will be available this afternoon to speak with any families who may need additional support over the next two days. Please email the school office and we will return your call. We will also inform the bus and taxi companies of the closure. We can also provide suncream for pupils to take home with them today if requested (again please email school so we can arrange),

In addition, we will be sending families some useful advice on keeping children safe during very hot weather.

Thank you for your understanding and support. As always, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff remain our highest priority.

The school will reopen as normal on Friday.

The plans above will only change if the RED ALERT IS REMOVED.

Yours sincerely,

**L. Brown
Headteacher
Ogmore Vale Primary School**