



**Benhall Infant School &
St Mark's C of E Junior School**
Robert Burns Avenue
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire



Benhall Infant School: admin@benhall.gloucs.sch.uk Tel: 01242 234717
St Mark's C of E Junior School: admin@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk Tel: 01242 702280

Monday 22nd June 2026

Dear Families,

Due to the extremely high temperatures forecast for this week, both **Benhall Infant School and St Mark's C of E Junior School** will close early at 12noon on Wednesday 24th June and Thursday 25th June.

The safety and wellbeing of our school communities remain our highest priorities. Having carefully assessed the expected rise in temperatures, and following consultation with other local schools, this decision has not been taken lightly. We fully recognise the short notice and the inconvenience this may cause for families. However, the conditions predicted represent an exceptional situation, and we must take appropriate steps to ensure children and staff remain safe.

For families where childcare arrangements are completely impossible, please contact the school directly via clerical@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk, and we will do our best to support with alternative arrangements.

A few key details:

- Children at St Mark's will be brought out onto the school playground at 12noon in the same way as at the end of the day.
- We still aim to go ahead with the Year 6 production at the times already scheduled. To support this, we will be bringing additional fans from across the school to help create as much air circulation as possible. Please do bring hand-held fans if you have them – and plenty of water!
- Class photographs will take place before lunchtime to ensure these are all completed before the school closure.
- For children who are entitled to Free School Meals, a packed lunch will be provided.
- SMOOSC Wraparound Care will not be able to run provision after school on Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th for safety reasons.

Arrangements While Children Are in School

During this period of extreme heat, we will be putting the following measures in place:

Learning Environment

- Teaching will take place, wherever possible, in the coolest available areas of the school
- Lessons may be adapted to reduce physical activity
- Rooms experiencing excessive heat may be taken out of use where alternatives are available
- Staff will closely monitor classroom temperatures and pupil wellbeing throughout the day

Outdoor Activities

- Outdoor activities will be significantly restricted
- PE lessons, sports practices and other strenuous activities will be cancelled, postponed or adapted
- Children will be encouraged to remain in shaded areas or indoors during break and lunchtime where possible



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Hydration and Wellbeing

- Children will be encouraged to drink water frequently throughout the day
- Water refill stations will be available; all children should bring a named water bottle
- Staff will be vigilant in recognising early signs of heat-related illness

Uniform Adjustments

- Children may attend in either school uniform or PE kit, depending on which is cooler and more comfortable
- Hats may be worn outdoors
- Sunglasses may be brought for use during social times

How Parents and Carers Can Help

Please support us by ensuring your child:

- Brings a filled water bottle to school each day
- Applies sunscreen before arriving at school (and brings more if needed)
- Brings a hat for outdoor use
- Has eaten a good breakfast and is well hydrated before coming to school

Signs of Heat-Related Illness

Please remind your child to tell a member of staff immediately if they feel unwell. Symptoms may include:

- Dizziness or fainting
- Severe headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Unusual tiredness
- Muscle cramps
- Confusion or disorientation
- Hot, flushed skin

If a child becomes unwell during the school day, we will contact parents/carers and may ask for them to be collected.

We truly appreciate your understanding and support as we navigate these exceptional circumstances together. By working in partnership, we can ensure that all children remain safe, comfortable and as ready to learn as possible.

Mrs K James
Benhall Infant School

Mrs A Fitch
St Mark's C of E Junior School