



Harrow Way Community School

Learning for life, success for all

Headteacher: Mrs D L German

Harrow Way | Andover | Hampshire | SP10 3RH

25th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Extreme heat update – school closure Friday 26th June

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this period of exceptionally hot weather.

We are aware that there has been considerable public discussion about whether schools should remain open during the current heatwave, and that parents and carers may hold differing views. As Headteachers, we have a responsibility to make decisions based on the specific circumstances of our own schools, with the safety and wellbeing of students and staff at the forefront. We also work in close collaboration to consider the needs of the community.

We have undertaken a risk assessment and considered a wide range of factors, including:

- The design and thermal performance of our buildings. Whilst some school buildings remain relatively cool in hot weather, others are more susceptible to overheating.
- Travel arrangements for students, particularly those who walk or cycle significant distances to and from school.
- Staffing levels, including the impact of closures in primary schools and nurseries on childcare responsibilities.
- The welfare of students and staff, including those who may be particularly vulnerable to the effects of extreme heat.
- The impact of high temperatures on essential school functions, including IT infrastructure and the safe storage of chemicals and other materials.
- The educational impact of any disruption to students' learning and routines
- The wider safeguarding and welfare considerations associated with closing the school site.

Having carefully considered all these factors, along with circumstances specific to our respective schools, we have decided that our **schools will remain closed to the majority of students on Friday 26th June**, but our [Geography Field Trip to Swanage will go ahead](#).

While Friday's forecast is slightly cooler than Wednesday and Thursday, temperatures are still expected to reach or exceed 30°C in Andover by midday. We have been notified that the red weather warning for the South East has been extended until 11pm on Friday [Weather alert for south-east | UKHSA data dashboard](#). The experience of recent days has shown that, despite



extensive efforts to ventilate our buildings, heat has accumulated within them and has not dissipated overnight. As a result, indoor temperatures are already high at the start of the school day and increase further as the day progresses.

We have also taken into account feedback from families. A number of parents told us that their children found the journey home during the heat particularly challenging when we closed at 1.00pm.

We recognise that closing schools creates difficulties for some families and we have not taken this decision lightly. However, on balance, we believe that it is the most appropriate course of action in the circumstances.

As per yesterday, we will provide a small, supervised on-site provision for vulnerable students **ONLY** who either have an EHCP, are LAC or those who are supported through a Child in Need (CIN) or Child Protection (CP) plan. These students will access their online learning under the supervision of the senior leadership team. If your child falls into one of these categories, and you would like them to attend school tomorrow, please complete [this Google form](#) by **6.00pm today**. The canteen will not be open tomorrow, but students can order a packed lunch in advance.

We are also mindful of families who are eligible for free school meals. If this applies to you. Please complete [this form](#) by **6.00 pm today** so we are able to cater appropriately.

Finally, we would ask all parents and carers to remind young people about the dangers of swimming in rivers, lakes and other open water during periods of hot weather. While the temptation to cool down is understandable, entering cold water suddenly can cause significant shock to the body and has tragically led to a number of serious incidents both in the UK and abroad.

Thank you again for your understanding and support. We appreciate that this decision may not be welcomed by everyone, but we hope parents can be reassured that it has been made following careful consideration of all available information and with the best interests of our school communities in mind.

Yours faithfully



Mrs D L German
Headteacher

Harrow Way Community School



Mrs E Sudds
Headteacher

John Hanson Community School