



Vernham Dean Gillum's Church of England Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mr Ian Hickman

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@vernhamdeanprimaryschool

22nd June 2026

IMPORTANT: Extreme Weather Arrangements & Extended Heat Health Alerts

Dear Parents / Carers

Hampshire County Council has updated its guidance following the Met Office and UKHSA heat alerts issued for our region. Parts of North Hampshire have now been placed under a **Red Extreme Heat Warning**, with the wider Amber alert extended until Friday 26th June.

The Local Authority's current directive is that **schools should remain open**, as school attendance is a vital safeguarding factor in keeping children supervised and safe during extreme weather. However, because this is a *prolonged* period of heat rather than a short peak, we are implementing significant daily changes from tomorrow **through to Friday 26th June**:

1. Relaxed Dress Code

Children need not wear formal uniform (although in many cases, this may be the coolest option) and can wear their PE kit instead if you feel this will be cooler for them, please remember natural/breathable fabrics are much cooler in the heat. A sun hat is mandatory for any time spent outdoors.

2. High-Factor Sunscreen & Water Bottles

- Please apply **high-factor sunscreen** to your child before school.
- Send a large, named, reusable water bottle.

3. Changes to School Activities & Building Management

- **Vigorous physical activity and outdoor PE are paused.** We will substitute these with sedentary, low-exertion indoor activities.
- Outdoor play will be strictly limited to shaded areas or moved indoors during the hottest parts of the day.
- To keep classrooms as cool as possible, staff will be opening windows early, closing blinds strategically, and **turning off all non-essential electrical equipment and lights** to reduce indoor heat gain.



4. Health Awareness: Vulnerable Children & Heat Illness

Our staff have been fully briefed on identifying the signs of heat stress and heat exhaustion (dizziness, headaches, nausea, or pale, clammy skin).

We are paying extra attention to our youngest children in EYFS as part of our internal plans. However, **if your child has an underlying medical condition (such as asthma) or takes regular medication** that may make them particularly vulnerable to extreme heat, please ensure their class teacher is aware so we can monitor them closely.

We will update you if the situation or advice changes.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Ian Hickman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Ian Hickman
Executive Headteacher