



22 June 2026

Dear parents and carers,

**Heatwave – JMHS will finish at 1.15pm on Tuesday 23 June
and will be closed on Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 June**

I am sure you are aware of the forecast high temperatures and amber and red weather warning for extreme heat over the next few days. These temperatures have already badly affected our timetabled lessons today and we have been monitoring our classrooms closely. Our main block, built in the 1960s, saw temperatures reach 34°C in classrooms this morning in spite of our best efforts to keep the rooms cool, whilst the recorded temperature outside remained at 26°C. Our maths and DT classrooms, as well as our classrooms in portakabins, also regularly exceed the outside recorded temperature by a significant margin and these have been difficult spaces to work in today. We have been impressed by, and grateful for, the mature behaviour of students who have continued to work well in these conditions and respond sensibly to room changes. I am also grateful to the staff who have continued to teach high-quality lessons in spite of the heat.

Tomorrow afternoon, temperatures are forecast to reach 33°C. On Wednesday and Thursday, the forecast shows temperatures rising as high as 35°C. Given that our classrooms, when used by a class of students, tend to be at least 7°C hotter than the temperature outside, we currently expect our classrooms to be 40°C or hotter for most of this time. This is the point at which heat stroke becomes a real possibility and people with pre-existing medical conditions risk becoming seriously ill.

For this reason, after much consideration and with a heavy heart, I have reluctantly decided to close the school for this period. Whilst I will always do whatever I can to keep the school open, I must prioritise the safety of the members of our school community. The arrangements for the remainder of the week will be as follows:

1. Tuesday 23 June: school will finish at 1.15pm

We have been able to arrange for the following buses to arrive early afternoon on Tuesday 23 June to take children home, departing at 1.15pm.

- First Midland 675 (Malvern/Colwall route)
- CAL JMH224 (Eastnor route)
- CAL JMH223 (Coddington route)
- Jones JMH222 (Much Marcle route)
- DRM 476 (Ashperton, Hereford route)
- H&H Coaches JM1 (Redmarley route)
- Newent dial-a-ride minibus JM2 (Dymock, Hallwood green route)
- Newent dial-a-ride minibus Staunton service

- DRM 232 Daffodil Line (Newent route)

We have **not** been able to arrange for the following buses to arrive early:

- First Midland 674 (Bromyard route)

If you cannot collect or supervise your children during this afternoon, then please use the link below to complete a Microsoft Form by 12pm on Tuesday 23 June to make us aware. We will be able to ensure they are safe, and supervised, in the cooler areas of the school.

[Request for afternoon supervision for student on Tuesday 23 June – Fill in form](#)

As a result of the early school closure, we will NOT run the Year 12 Transition Day tomorrow. This will be rescheduled and we will write with information about this as soon as possible.

2. Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 June: school closed

Teachers will set work on ePraise and will be online and contactable by email across the school day to support with this. Families that would like to access free school meals will be able to collect these from the school site between 10.00am and 10.30am. If you wish for us to prepare free school meal(s) for your children, please make us aware of this using the following form:

[Free School Meal Orders - Wednesday 24 June and Thursday 25 June – Fill in form](#)

We will reschedule our Year 6 Information Evening on Thursday 24 June. Collection for children arriving back from the Normandy trip will take place as planned. In both cases, we will write to affected families with further details.

3. Friday 26 June: school open as usual

Any school closure is a difficult decision and I have not done this lightly. However, the extreme hot weather, and the fact that our unsuitable school building means that the temperature in our classrooms is significantly hotter than the temperature outside, As a result, opening the school could put members of our community at risk of serious heat-related illnesses.

I am aware that the weather forecast may change and I risk closing the school and later finding out that temperatures are not as high as predicted. However, I have decided it is better to make a decision now in order to give you as much time as possible so that you can make any necessary arrangements.

Please accept my apologies for the inconvenience this decision causes, and my thanks for your support.

Yours sincerely,



John Holmes
Headteacher