

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you further to our previous communication regarding the current heatwave conditions affecting all of our schools within the Trust.

Following further review of the situation today, including a survey of staffing availability across the Trust, we have taken the difficult decision to close all schools Wednesday and Thursday this week. Whilst we haven't made the decision to close our schools early on Tuesday, staffing levels are impacted by local schools closing early, therefore if any parents/carers can collect their child/children early from 12.30 on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> that would be appreciated. If you can do this, please let your child's class teacher know.

While we recognise the expectation that schools remain open wherever possible, the health, safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff must remain our overriding priority. A significant number of our staff are parents of school-aged children whose own schools have been required to close due to the extreme heat. As a result, we do not have sufficient staffing capacity to safely meet required supervision ratios across our provisions.

Given the complexity of need within our pupil cohort, and the heightened risks presented by the current temperatures, we are not able to assure safe operation on reduced staffing levels.

#### **Attendance and next steps**

The closure will apply for Wednesday and Thursday. We anticipate that the predicted cooler temperatures forecast for Friday should enable us to open as normal. However we will continue to review the situation in line with national guidance and local conditions, and we will communicate with you as early as possible regarding any changes to these arrangements.

We recognise the impact that this decision may have on families and have not taken it lightly. However, we are clear that this is the safest and most responsible course of action in the current circumstances.

We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we navigate these exceptional conditions together. If you have any questions, please contact your school in the usual way.



**Joolz Scarlett**  
**CEO Ascendancy Partnership Trust**

**Stronger and Better Together**

Ascendancy Partnership Trust

Manor Green School, Elizabeth Hawkes Way, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3EQ

[office@aptmat.co.uk](mailto:office@aptmat.co.uk) [www.ascendancypartnershiptrust.co.uk](http://www.ascendancypartnershiptrust.co.uk)



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