

Lowbrook Academy Trust

The Fairway, Cox Green, Maidenhead

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Principal: Dave Rooney

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Monday 22nd June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of an urgent, temporary change to our school operating hours for the next three days (**Tuesday 23rd, Wednesday 24th, and Thursday 25th June**). Following a rigorous health and safety risk assessment, Lowbrook Academy will be closing early at **12:00 PM** each day.

We expect to return to regular school hours on Friday 26th June, subject to a drop in temperatures.

Why we have made this decision

As you are aware from the media, the Met Office has issued an Amber Extreme Heat Warning for our region, with temperatures forecast to peak between 35°C and 38°C.

While we always make every effort to keep the school fully open, Lowbrook Academy faces a unique structural challenge. Our legacy 1978 mechanical classroom ventilation system was recently condemned and is completely non-operational. This means we currently have zero structural "air refreshment" or mechanical cooling inside our classrooms.

Government and public health safety guidance explicitly states that when indoor temperatures exceed 35°C, standard electric fans cannot be safely used as they simply recirculate hot air and accelerate dehydration in young children. Without functioning ventilation, our classrooms will rapidly become severe "heat traps" by early afternoon, posing a critical risk of heat exhaustion to our pupils and staff. Hopefully, after the new ventilation system is installed, beginning over the summer break, future closures will be avoided.

Arrangements for the next three days:

- **Morning Drop-Off:** School will open at the normal time. We encourage a prompt arrival so we can maximise learning during the coolest hours of the day.
- **Collection:** All children must be collected at **12:00 PM**.
- **Uniform:** The formal uniform policy is entirely suspended. Children should come to school in loose, light-coloured personal clothing, such as PE kits, shorts, and t-shirts.

- **Sun Protection:** Please apply high-factor sun cream to your child before they arrive and send them with a wide-brimmed sun hat and a named water bottle.

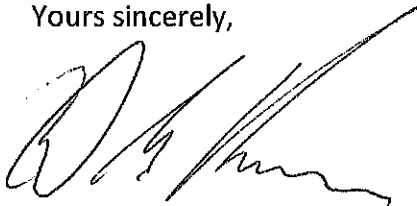
Lunches and Remote Learning

- **School Meals:** A packed lunch option will be provided to all eligible Free School Meal pupils to take home at 12:00 PM.
- **Afternoon Learning:** Teachers will be setting low-energy learning tasks and reading activities for the afternoons, which children can complete in the comfort of a cooler home environment.

I completely understand that an early closure causes logistical challenges for working families, and I sincerely apologise for the short notice and inconvenience this may cause. However, as Principal, my absolute priority must be the physical safety and health of your children. Under the current extreme conditions, our unventilated building is simply not safe for occupancy past midday.

Thank you for your immediate understanding, cooperation, and support as we navigate this unprecedented week.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Rooney', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Dave Rooney
Principal