

25th June 2026

Dear Riverside families,

I hope you are all well and managing the heat as best as possible.

I am writing to let you know that, after very careful consideration, we have decided to cancel this Saturday's School Fair. Rather than simply sending a one-line message to this effect, I wanted to provide a little more context to our decision, as this was not one we took lightly.

We have proudly organised both Summer and Christmas Fairs for many years and they are always such important events. They provide an opportunity for our whole school community (existing pupils and families; ex-pupils and families; staff and their families, community partners, etc) to connect and re-connect with the school in an informal way, catching up with other families and staff in a relaxed, safe and pupil-centred environment.

However, this year is a little different. As you won't need me to tell you, the heat this week has been particularly extreme and our commitment has always been to remain fully open for our pupils and yourselves. Across our four sites, we have put in place a number of measures to keep everyone as cool and safe as possible – not an easy task, but one that we would always be totally committed to doing. Many mainstream and special schools locally and nationally have taken a different approach and that is, of course, their prerogative to do so.

You will have received my letter on Monday authorising any absence should any of you feel it would be in your child's best interests to remain at home. For those families who chose this option, we completely respect your decision to do so.

Notwithstanding the above, and with another exceptionally hot day expected tomorrow, we have taken the decision to cancel the Fair on Saturday for the following reasons:

- At the time of writing, both the Met Office and BBC are predicting the temperature to reach 30 degrees on Saturday, with red or amber warnings for extreme heat. With limited shade, these conditions would not be conducive to holding the Fair outside.
- We considered moving the Fair inside, but this would mean taking any large, cooler spaces out of action tomorrow in order to set up. This would include our Performing Arts Hall, which we are using as the largest and coolest space for pupils to use tomorrow. We would not want to compromise our pupils' wellbeing tomorrow, in order to set up for Saturday.
- Many of the typical Summer Fair activities, such as bouncy castles, water games and other stalls would not transfer easily to being indoors.

- Preparing hot food in our kitchens would increase the temperature further and we would not want to add to the risk of children finding the heat just too much.

Please know that these, and other factors, were considered carefully in making our decision and we hope you understand our position. Our priority this week has been to focus our energies on making all four sites as cool, calm and safe as possible and extending this to Saturday simply does not feel like the right thing to do for our whole school community in the circumstances.

Thank you in advance for all your support to date, by sending in prizes, bottles and donations and these will all be kept until the next event. Thank you also for buying raffle tickets – we will draw the raffle in school on Monday and good luck in being pulled out of the hat!

Thank you for your understanding and with very best wishes,



Steve Solomons
Headteacher