

1 November 2023

Dear Westcountry Schools Community

With great reluctance we have taken the decision to direct all WeST Schools to close tomorrow, Thursday 2 November. This decision follows the amber weather warning issued by the Met Office, covering all of Cornwall, Plymouth, and most of Devon. This warning means:

- Flying debris could result in a danger to life
- Damage to buildings and homes is possible, with roofs blown off and trees and power lines brought down
- Roads, bridges, and railway lines may close, with delays and cancellations to bus, train, ferry services and flights
- Power cuts could occur and affect other services, such as mobile phone coverage
- There is potential for large waves and beach material being thrown onto sea fronts, coastal roads and properties

We have communication from Devon Local Authority which states, "An emergency strategy meeting has taken place today and it was agreed that we need to ensure school leaders fully appreciate that the current weather warning presents a risk to life and could worsen." Additionally, our staff travel to our schools from some distance, and we are deeply concerned about schools having sufficient numbers to provide a safe service for their young people.

WeST have asked Headteachers to provide a remote learning offer, to the best of their ability. We fully anticipate schools being open again on Friday 3 November.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in these circumstances.

Yours sincerely



Nat Parnell
Deputy CEO
Westcountry Schools Trust