

UK swelters in heatwave with record June temperatures forecast

More than 1,000 schools across the south of England and parts of Wales were closed or partially shut this week as a heatwave dominated the UK.

The move came as high temperatures made it difficult for schools to keep their pupils cool enough to carry out school work and activities.

For only the second time, the Met Office – the organisation which forecasts and records our weather – issued a red alert for extreme heat. That is the highest level of alert and means there is a risk to life and a possibility of substantial disruption to travel and energy supplies.

The red alert covered a large part of southern and central England, spreading into south-east Wales. Most of the rest of England and Wales was slightly less hot and was under an amber alert, the next level down.

**HOT,
HOT,
HOT!**

Only once before has the Met Office issued a red alert for heat, for a similar heatwave in 2022.

This week has been the second official heatwave declared in the UK this year. In the last week in May, it reached 35.1°C at Kew Gardens in London, the highest temperature ever recorded in the UK during May.

This week, a record for June was being forecast with temperatures expected to reach the very high 30s.

Among those affected have been train passengers, with people urged not to travel as the heat threatened to damage railway tracks and other equipment.

Sleeping has also been difficult in

WHAT IS AN OFFICIAL HEATWAVE?

A heatwave is officially declared in the UK when temperatures reach a certain point for three days in a row – but that point is different depending where you live.

For those living in London and surrounding areas, it must reach 28°C for three days to be declared a heatwave. In the wider south-east and east of England the figure is 27°C, and as you move north and west it drops to 26°C.

In Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, the north of England and Devon and Cornwall, 25°C is enough to call it a heatwave.

so-called 'tropical nights' when the temperature doesn't fall below 20°C during the hours of darkness.

Elsewhere in Europe, temperatures have soared into the 40s and almost 50 people have drowned in France as they tried to cool off by swimming in open water.

Keep cool and stay safe – see our special report on page 2



What did the Met Office issue for only the second time?

What was the highest temperature ever recorded in the UK during May?

Which word in the text means something has risen high?



Why do you think an official heatwave is measured differently across the UK?



