

Winter Weather Procedures

Dear Parents,

As the weather is becoming colder would you please find below important information regarding procedures during winter weather conditions.

There is a Local Authority procedure for schools to follow to inform parents etc when a school is affected by severe weather conditions or closed for other emergencies. Before a decision can be made with regard to school closure, many factors are taken into consideration e.g. staff ratios, health and safety issues including heating and paths etc, and the future weather forecast.

As a school we will remain open wherever possible and this is in line with Local Authority policy. However if we make the decision to close the school before the start of the school day, then this information will be given out via our text messaging service. We will also endeavour to upload information onto the Durham County Council website (<http://www.durham.gov.uk/schoolclosures>) and our school website as soon as we possibly can.

We do try to be in school as early as possible but as you can appreciate, we also have the weather to contend with.

Please be aware that if you wish to telephone the school office this service is available from 8.30 a.m. – 4.30p.m.

During times of such inclement weather, Mr Jones works very hard to clear footpaths to the main entrances to school but we remind parents and children to be extra vigilant as it is difficult to avoid excess water on the hall floor!

If weather conditions worsen during the course of a school day, then our procedure is to contact parents via our text messaging service as soon as we can so that they can make appropriate arrangements to come and collect their children. Please ensure that we have up to date contact details in school to help us with this.

We do like the children to go out and play in the snow during break-times wherever possible so we would advise that children bring a change of footwear to school as well as wearing a warm coat, gloves and a hat! A spare pair of socks is also very handy!

Hopefully this information should help to make arrangements a little smoother, particularly if we are in for a spell of bad weather!

MANY THANKS