

# Ice and Snow Plan

Dear Parents/Carers,

In light of the forecast for the week, I am writing to remind you about our snow and ice plan which includes the measures we put in place to ensure the safety of staff and pupils.

Where possible, we aim to keep the school open in icy/snow conditions. Measures to support this include

- gritting of main pedestrian routes into the school;
- warning signs of potentially icy conditions;
- regular assessments of the safety of playground areas etc. so that areas can be closed/cordoned off if necessary;
- closure of routes on to the school site which are potentially hazardous.

*Please note that the boardwalk entrance may be closed in icy/snow conditions - this is not necessarily because of the boardwalk itself, but because access to and from the boardwalk requires use of the steps/slope to the all-weather pitch which can become unsafe in icy conditions. Any closure will be notified using signs at the entrance and through Parentmail.*

- In snowy conditions, the site team's priority will be to clear the paths to the main entrance, YR playground and piazza to provide safe routes to classrooms. Fewer entrances may be used if necessary.

The decision to close the school is not taken lightly, but may be made in the following circumstances:

- when it is deemed unsafe for pupils/staff to access the school site (after a heavy overnight fall of snow, time may be needed to clear access routes and make the site safe);
- if there is a failure with the school heating;
- when there are likely to be significant difficulties for pupils to make their way safely to and from the school due to local road conditions;
- when there are likely to be significant difficulties for an adequate number of staff to travel safely to and from school due to road conditions.

We are fortunate that we have a number of staff who live locally. It may sometimes be possible to open the school with a reduced staff during snowy conditions, as long as there are enough staff to provide adequate supervision for pupils. Other measures which have been used in the past to support safe travel to school include a staggered or later start to the school day to allow more time for travel.

We will aim to communicate any decisions regarding school disruption with as much notice as possible. Any school closure will be notified on the Hampshire County Council Website which publishes an up-to-date list of school closures - these are then picked up by local radio stations. We will also use Parentmail, the school website and public social media sites to inform people as quickly as possible. A message will be left on the school answer phone (if access has been possible!).

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Pennington - Headteacher