



Hunter's Bar Infant School

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Happy Learners Achieving Together



MB/RCD

8th March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

School closures in bad weather

With the current forecast of snow later today and into tomorrow, we wanted to write to you about possible school closures in bad weather.

Current decision for Thursday 9th March

- Both school intend to be open at the normal time
- If we have to close school tomorrow morning we will communicate by text at the earliest opportunity
- Registers will be kept open until 10 to allow parents who are travelling longer distances to travel safely
- We aim to be open for the full day
- If the weather deteriorates and we have to close early we will communicate by text message and ask you to collect your child early.

The decision to close a school is never taken in isolation and never without considering a number of important factors, such as:

- The condition of the school site
- The amount of snow that has accumulated and whether there is ice
- Building conditions (such as if we have electricity, heat and running water)
- The weather forecast. We prefer not make our decision based on weather forecasts, which are not always accurate, but sometimes this is unavoidable
- The number of staff able to get into school. We have a number of staff who live a good distance from school, some in Derbyshire
- What other schools in the area are doing
- Information and advice from the local authority, police and transport

Another important decision we have to make is when to inform parents. Obviously, we want to give as much notice as possible, but also need to give time to analyse the factors mentioned above. Communication, both accurate and timely is vital in these situations and we will always do our best to inform you as quickly as possible and give you the best advice or information.

Finally, when the decision is made to stay open we still need to keep an eye on conditions. The majority of our parents live outside of the catchment area for school and from over 10 different post codes.

We do our absolute best in this process but we realise that often no perfect decision exists. If, based on current weather conditions, you do not feel as though it is safe for your child to attend school, use your best judgement on whether he or she should attend.

Yours sincerely

Mike Barnes
Head teacher