



Oxenhope Church of England Primary

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family

1.12.20

Dear parents and carers,

As we have snow forecast this week can I take this opportunity to remind you of our winter conditions policy. The main recommendations for parents are within this letter but we strongly advise that you read the full policy (available on the website) so you are fully prepared should the school have to close. The policy includes information on; school closure, delayed opening, heavy snowfall at rush hour, snowfall during the day, failure of the school boiler or pipe burst, icy conditions and gritting procedure.

Recommendations from the policy:

At school, we are aware that the timings of our decisions to close the school are critical for parents and carers, trying to get their children to school and then get to work.

Following a **heavy** overnight snowfall, we always try and take the judgment on school closure as early as possible in the morning. We aim to make this decision early enough for parents/carers to make alternative plans for childcare or, if there is a **heavy** snow fall during the day, with enough notice as possible for parents/carers or an alternate to pick up.

Whatever the time of day, please be assured that the decision to close the school is taken after considering many factors, particularly the health and safety of our children and staff, and is not taken lightly and always in coordination with other local schools and or after advice from others.

We understand that you may need another adult (ie other relative/family friend) to pick up your child in school closure emergency circumstances. From a COVID point of view, this is appropriate but please can you let the school office know who your child will be going home with.

What parents and carers need to remember:

- Please have 2 emergency contact numbers available at our school office
- Please have your own emergency collection plan in place should the school/Explorers be closed during the day
- Look for updates on the website, Bradford Schools Online and on Social Media
- Don't set off to school until you are confident it is open and it is safe for you to travel
- **Be patient** - we understand the pressures of family life however there will be a slight delay between the decision to close and the information getting out there. Please be assured that we are always working as quickly as possible to help.

Oxenhope Church of England Primary School

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- Please remain positive - we will do our best to ensure the school remains open however the safety of children, staff and parents is our priority and if we do close then it will be due to intensive conversations and advice from 3rd parties, such as the council, other schools and BDAT.

Can I also please mention that children must have a warm coat with them in school at all times as well as weather appropriate footwear (not summer type shoes). A hat, gloves and a scarf are also advisable as it can get cold on the playground. We will always aim to take the children outside unless the weather is extreme. All clothing items must be named.

Children also may wear wellies to school and wear these at playtime etc. A change of shoes can be brought to school in a named carrier bag. Please ensure that this bag can be wiped down or thrown away after use rather than a backpack type bag. Once again, all clothing items must be named.

Thank you for your support and cooperation

Mrs Jones
Headteacher

believe
and
achieve

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