

School closure due to snow or extreme weather

- If weather or any other factors result in St. Saviour's closing or altering working hours significantly, I will contact all staff by text. I will do the same for parents / carers of children
- If no Designated Safeguarding Lead can attend school, or we have unsafe staff to child ratios, the school will not open
- Year group leaders are asked to pass this message on to their teams by calling mobiles (rather than texting) to confirm they have received my initial text. Please ensure that Nick and your Year Group Leader have your up to date telephone number
- In the event of snow or ice, and if the school is open, I will leave it to individual staff members to make a judgement about whether they feel it is safe to travel to school. Obviously, I will take your home address and general circumstances (age, health etc.) into account in this matter. If you live within walking distance of school, you must judge whether or not you feel able to walk. Consider hazardous conditions such as ice when making this decision. I expect staff to make every effort to get to work, but I do not wish you to risk injury
- If you are going to drive in inclement weather, ensure you have warm clothing and any supplies you might need should you become stuck
- In the event of snow, premises staff and SLT will make every effort to clear and grit pathways around and into school.
- If teachers have to cover children not usually in their class, set or even year group, school leaders will take a reasonable view about the activities offered. In extreme circumstances, teachers making the effort to get to work should not be judged by our usual standards, though this does not mean that children should be colouring-in!
- I will always try to open, even partially, on snowy days. I will only close the school if staying open would cause unreasonable risk to children, staff and parents / carers. With this in mind, I am more likely to close the school if rain or compacted snow freezes over and causes slip hazards. Snow only tends to cause a closure if it is more than 20 or so cm deep. I want to open if at all possible, even for limited numbers of children, as this allows key workers to go to work. If schools close, this has serious knock-on effects in our community
- If the risk of slipping on ice is minimal, we will sometimes allow children to play in snow, usually towards the end of the day. Children will get cold and wet but we feel this is a unique experience for them, they are making happy memories. If staff do not feel conditions in the playground or field are safe, they will keep children indoors. Where parents / carers express a strong preference either way on this, we will take this into account
- If conditions worsen during any given day, we will inform parents that we will allow them to collect at a fixed time and not before. Ad hoc collection by parents has previously caused significant disruption as staff have had to locate large numbers of children, spread across the school. We will text parents and ask them to collect at a fixed time, in doing so we will specify where they should collect their children from.

Nick Bonell

November 2024