



Birdsedge First School



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Head Teacher: Mrs Donna Waddington

Tuesday 30th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach that time of year when snow and severe weather can occur, I wanted to outline clearly the arrangements that would be in place should school need to close to pupils before or during the school day.

In the event of severe weather, as Headteacher, I will make an assessment about whether it is safe and practical to open the school to pupils. This decision will also consider and assess the provisions for catering and cleaning as well as safe adult to pupil ratios. Please be assured that closing the school will not be a decision taken lightly and the safety and wellbeing of pupils, their families and staff will be put at the centre of this decision. On occasion this may be due to the availability of teaching/support staff who travel some distance to reach school, rather than purely conditions for pupils getting to school.

Should I ever make the decision for school to close, you will be informed, by text message, early in the morning – usually by 7:30am. On occasion, it can take longer to make a decision as the ice is not always apparent and issues arise as staff are leaving home. In these circumstances, we will respond as quickly as possible. Other ways you can check reports of closure are through:

- Checking the School Website
- Checking the School Facebook and Twitter Page
- Checking the council website <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolclosures>
www.kirklees.gov.uk/winter or following them on twitter
- Listening to local radio stations: BBC Radio Leeds and Pulse 1/Greatest Hits Radio West Yorkshire

If we have to close school during the day due to changes in weather, we will inform you immediately by text message. We only decide to close the school during the day in exceptional circumstances where we are informed that roads are becoming dangerous and transport is encountering difficulties. Staff will remain with children until such time as you, or someone delegated by you, can come and pick children up. If there is any variation to your normal collection arrangements please notify the school office.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the above further with me, please do not hesitate to contact me here at school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs D Waddington