



Bramham Primary School
Clifford Road
Bramham
Leeds
LS23 6JQ



Tel: 01937 843682

www.bramhamprimary.co.uk

1st December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

A timely day on the first of this month and with snow anticipated this weekend, to remind you of our 'snow procedures' in school. Always the children's favourite weather but sometimes a logistical nightmare for parents...so here are a few pieces of information which may help you plan, should we have heavy snow fall.

When snow has fallen, we base our decision for closure around information provided from staff living close to our school re: the immediate weather and road conditions. The local authority will also provide us with useful advice, issuing schools with amber and red weather warnings to assist in making these decisions. We will then **post a message on the website** and aim to text you **by 7.30am**, to let you know that we are closed, or that we are staying open and reviewing the situation as the day progresses. If school is going to be closed, we will also let local radio stations know, so that we are included in their listings.

When school is closed in this way, the procedure is very different to 'covid-bubble closure' (when school is still officially open). During school closure due to weather conditions such as heavy snow, school will be logged with the Authority and Ofsted as being closed and online lessons will not be available, as they would be for covid-related closure. I would whole-heartedly hope anyway, that if we are closed due to heavy snow, that the children have some time to play out and experience the wonder of the cold whiteness, build a snowman and make snow angels!

The Local Authority trusts schools to make every effort to stay open and we recognise that this can cause stress for parents/carers as you make journeys in difficult conditions, juggle work commitments and sometimes have to use holiday because you have no alternative childcare. We would like to assure you that we never take any decision to close school lightly and will only ever do this when absolutely necessary.

Whilst making every effort to stay open, we can only do so **if enough staff can make it on site** to fulfil health and safety ratios. The teachers always set off and do their very best to get here but sometimes extreme circumstances can prevent them from completing their journey.

Sometimes **late opening** may be more appropriate to allow you and the staff time to make the safest journey possible. This gives our site manager enough time to make the paths around school as safe as possible. We will let you know about **late opening by 8.30am** at the latest. **If school closes because of a deterioration of the weather mid-session, we will text you to pick up your children in plenty of time.** A member of the Senior Leadership Team will always stay on site until the last child has left the building.

Please just be in touch if you have any further questions.

Sarah Richards

Executive Head Teacher

Bramham Shadwell Federation

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