

Valley Primary School Snow Factsheet



Valley Primary School will stay open if at all possible when there is severe weather such as snow. In the event of school closure we will endeavour to keep you up to date at all times. When we have heavy snow overnight, staff will do their utmost to get into school as long as transport links are working and it is safe for them to travel. Please remember that many members of staff live a long way from the school so walking is not an option.

As we are sure you will appreciate closing the school is not a decision that is taken lightly and will be made with the health and safety of the children and staff who are trying to get to school in mind. We will always try to make a decision by 7.30a.m and communicate our decision through the following channels:

1. The school website www.valleyprimary.co.uk (home page)
2. ParentMail / text – we will send you an email or SMS text message.
3. Bromley's website www.bromley.gov.uk

Please do not allow unaccompanied older children to set off without first checking that school is open and if you are not certain then assume the school is closed. If the school is closed it follows that the Breakfast and After School Clubs will also not operate. Parents and carers have the responsibility of getting children/pupils to and from school safely and need to decide if the journey is safe when severe weather affects transport and/or walking conditions.

If on the rare occasion school closes at a time within the school day, parents/carers will be informed by telephone/text. Members of staff will stay with children until they are collected by parents/carers. If conditions worsen in the school day and parents feel it is absolutely necessary to collect children, the school should, if possible, be contacted prior to collection. Please avoid collecting children before the end of the day unless you feel their safety is at risk.

Snowy weather when school remains open

If there is in excess of 5 cm of snow on the ground and school is **open**, the following arrangements will apply: the Site staff will clear snow from the pedestrian path to the Junior playground; between the arch entrance and the main reception; from the car park to the main entrance; and clearing and gritting Year 1 steps. KS2 children should go straight to class from 8.45am via the door adjacent to the outside toilets. KS1 children should go straight to class via the infant steps or via the main reception, depending upon conditions. Reception pupils should enter through their normal doors where possible. The register will not be taken until 9:30am to give you a bit longer to get the children to school. At the end of the day children can be picked up from their normal exits. The car park entrance will be cleared as soon as possible once there are some safe pedestrian walkways.

Frosty conditions / black ice / light snow (less than 5cm): On frosty mornings we urge you to proceed with extreme caution. Paths will be gritted from the gates to the children's entrances. We advise that you stick to these paths for your own and the children's safety, and do not take alternative routes across the playgrounds. During the day staff will assess the safety of the playgrounds before allowing children to play out on them. May we respectfully remind you that before school (8.45am) the children are your responsibility.

Winter outdoor clothes: Please ensure that in the cold weather your child is adequately dressed i.e. warm coat, hat, gloves, scarf and boots. During severe wintry weather, please ensure that your children wear named boots and that they bring a change of shoes. A named peg to keep the boots together and a plastic bag to store them in are very useful and should ensure that they do not get lost! If we are able to go outside at playtimes, warm clothing and boots will be essential.

Thank you for your cooperation.