



Baildon Church of England Primary School
and Nursery

21st November 2018

SCHOOL CLOSURES IN BAD WEATHER

Dear Parents

With the first snow of the winter being recorded in different parts of the country, we felt that it was timely to issue information about our policy on snow and closure of the school.

We hope that we will be able to keep the school open every day in times of bad weather, but, just in case we do need to close, we thought we would re-issue the procedure.

In the event of bad weather, the decision to delay the start time or to close school is taken if it is felt that we can't provide a safe environment for the pupils and staff. The decision to close school is ultimately taken by the Chair of Governors in consideration of advice from the Caretaker and Mrs Connor. If the decision to close school is taken, a text will be sent immediately to all parents who are registered with school. In the past, we have found that often the decision to close school mirrors the decision taken by numerous other schools. As a result, the networks used by schools to send the text messages can be very busy, resulting in delayed delivery of messages. A note will also be posted immediately on the school website. Therefore, it is advisable to first check the school website www.baildonce.co.uk. Now that we are using Twitter, we will also issue notification on this account @Baildon. School will also contact Bradford Schools Online to notify of the closure and they organise for the announcements on the radio. Parents are reminded that, in the case of bad weather where we are keeping the school open, the caretaker, Mrs Connor and Mr Holmes will be involved in clearing snow and ice from the premises, so please do not phone school to check if it is open as there will be limited staff around to take your call.

If we need to delay the start of school, Mrs Jones has said that she can operate Breakfast Club for the children who are registered for that day. Please note that all other children should come to school at the delayed start time and not before.

If you have to drive, please drive safely and park on Langley Lane to avoid congestion at the school, taking care not to obstruct driveways. Please note that in times of severe weather, the top gate will remain closed for safety reasons as we find it difficult to find the time to clear safe entrances into KS2 as well as KS1.



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As a school, we are obliged to provide education for children for a stated number of days a year and we will make every effort to keep school open as long as the site is safe for children and staff and that we have sufficient staff who can make it to work. We are aware that snowfall varies greatly across different areas and, even within the same locality, so we understand that, for some families, conditions in their area may be very different to those around school. Similarly, as happened last year, snow can be quite light when we make the decision to keep school open but then can start to fall heavily as we get nearer to school drop off time. We appreciate that the decision to close school can cause huge difficulties for some families and we will aim to keep to our original decision which is made at 6am. However, if things deteriorate like what happened last year, we may, unfortunately, have to change our decision.

In times of snow when we are open, please be advised that we keep our registers open so as to allow families to get to school.

If we decide to open and you feel that it is not safe to get your own children to school, can we ask that you email your absence to office@baildonce.co.uk rather than ring school. If you are unsure, please check our website www.baildonce.co.uk or Bradford Schools online.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Boggie
Chair of Governors

Mrs M Connor
Headteacher