

17 January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Severe Snow/Ice Plan for Parents and Families

As we enter winter and start to have the first flurry of snow it is important that your child is sent into school ready with appropriate warm coats, hats and gloves. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service.

As a fundamental principle every effort must be made to keep schools open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend. However schools may close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite.

We recognise that it is important our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. We will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting pathways, clearing access points etc.

How will we let you me know if the school is closed?

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions I may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made we will notify parents via the Kent Closures website. To determine whether this school is open or closed please visit www.kentclosures.co.uk. Search for the school in the search box. The Kent Closures website can also be used to find out if other services in Kent are open or closed, such as nurseries, children's centres and libraries. We also recommend parents sign up for SMS/Email alerts on the Kent Closures website. This service will send an SMS or email alert to let parents know if we are closed. We will also let parents know of any school closures via the school's text messaging service so please ensure we have your most up-to-date mobile phone number. We will only send a text message in the event of closure. Please do not ring the school. Please check the school's website www.bapchildprimary.co.uk or www.kent.closures.co.uk.

What can you do to help?

Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/winter for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.

Please can you provide a packed lunch from home in case school meals cannot be provided. Do not forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing.

If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.

Many thanks for your support in helping us remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.

Please keep this information safe as this is the only letter we will send regarding severe weather this academic year but a copy is on the school's website under ' News and Events/Letters home'.

Yours sincerely

Mr C Kelly
Headteacher