

Severe Weather Consultant Letter

Dear Parents and Carers

Whilst fresh in your mind, I wanted to consult with you on our severe weather emergency closure procedures.

As you know, we closed the school on Monday 11th December because of the snow. Being a Monday, there was no opportunity for the school site to have been cleared and the depth of the snow was significant enough that getting into and around school would have been extremely difficult. Additionally, the predicted forecast, which turned out to be accurate, was for heavy snow during the day and one of the many factors we always have to consider is not just the getting people into school but them getting home again.

On the Monday, Sue Wood, Dylan and Alex Nethercott worked like Trojans not just on the school site but also down Carters Lane, clearing and gritting everywhere within an inch of its life because of the forecast for very low temperatures during the night and in the early morning. Because of their hard work, it meant that we were able to open for a part of the day on the Tuesday once the temperatures had dropped away.

The website and twitter posted our opening hours whilst also saying that people should not travel if they did not feel safe doing so and that any absence on the Tuesday would be authorised. On the Tuesday, we had approximately half the children in school and the half that did arrive, parents expressed gratitude for us opening.

In my letter to you about our arrangements for severe weather closures, I mentioned that making the decision to close school is never done lightly and that whatever decision is made, only half the people will be pleased

Reflecting on the recent closure, I wanted to gauge parental opinion as to what you prefer in such circumstances and therefore I would be very grateful if you could answer the questions that follow at the end of this letter and return to the school office. Once collated, I will inform you of the general consensus.

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Hurwood

Headteacher

In the event of severe weather causing disruption to school, where possible, I would prefer that the school opens for a few hours, for example 10:30-2:30

In the event of severe weather causing disruption to school, I would prefer that the school makes the decision to close fully