



8th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today was clearly eventful for a lot of families, students and staff. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child(ren) was/were able to get home safely.

On the morning of any snow day, the bus companies inform us of their decision to travel or not travel and this subsequently impacts the overall school decision regarding opening or closure. Although all companies confirmed this morning that they were travelling, by 11:30 a.m. a number of the companies had contacted us to say that conditions had worsened in specific areas and that students who travel with them would need to be collected within an hour or two and taken home or risk no later travel.

We updated all parents/carers regarding these specific bus companies via Schoop and parent email. Our intention was to remain open for remaining students who live locally, where the weather conditions were reasonable, and for those who are collected by family members who felt that their individual routes home were safe. However, a significant number of students made contact home through their mobile phones without permission and suggested that school was officially closed, which resulted in considerable confusion and unnecessary risk for them and parents/carers.

The points below are important for future reference, and we ask all families to follow normal school communications and attendance protocols at all times please, in the best interest of keeping your child(ren) safe and well at all times:

- School decisions regarding opening, closure or partial closure will always be shared with you officially through Schoop and parent email (the primary contact you registered with us)
- If your child communicates anything different with you then we ask you to either **wait on official school updates** or we ask you to phone school reception if you are particularly concerned. Students will be reminded of the expectations of them.
- Please can we ask you not to encourage your child to leave school without having permission and without signing-out as described below.
- If you wish to collect your child, we cannot accept them showing us a text message from you. It must either be that, we:
 - Sign them out at reception once you **physically present at reception yourself to take them**, or another registered guardian
 - Sign them out once we have **spoken with you over the phone** and obtained verbal consent for them to leave by foot or with another parent/carer, via your registered number

As a result of personal student contact today and families arriving without an official announcement of school closure, we made the decision to close the school with the drop in numbers. By 2:30 p.m. all students had managed to leave safely, with the relevant communication to parents/carers.

Communications for Thursday 9th March 2023

At the moment, the forecast for tomorrow is more promising than today. The temperatures overnight will be low, but it will get warmer early morning and throughout the day, with rainfall mainly and little/no snow. We perceive that school will therefore be open tomorrow as normal but conditions may be icy so we urge everyone to take their time and we will authorise lateness for those who have a longer or more difficult journey route. Equally, if you live on higher ground or in one of the more affected areas and feel it is too much of a risk tomorrow, then we will authorise absence for your child(ren) based on your communications. We ask that you contact our school attendance line as normal please. Either way, our priority is always on ensuring that all families are safe.

If there are any changes overnight regarding school opening, then we will endeavour to update you over Schoop and parent email by 7 a.m. The school website will always be updated following on from this. If you do not hear anything further after this letter, then school is open as normal for all tomorrow.

If you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. Jones'.

Claire Jones,

Headteacher

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