



**INSPIRE NURTURE BELIEVE ACHIEVE**

*Working **together** to be the **best** that we can be.*

Happiness

Perserverance

Resilience

Kindness

Friendship

Respect

04.12.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the media commenting on the possibility of snow, we thought it was a good time to remind you of the 'snow procedures' in school. The children always love playing in the snow but we appreciate it can prove many logistical issues for parents.



When snow has fallen, we communicate amongst the staff team to establish the conditions and to assess the impact on staff travel. We also base our decision for closure around information provided from staff living close to our school re: the immediate weather and road conditions and how easy it will be for adequate numbers of staff to get to school for the regular opening time.

The Local Authority communicate amber and red weather warnings to assist in making these decisions.

The final part of the assessment process relies upon Bilton Grange School opening as this is where our school lunches come from.

Once this process has occurred, we will then make the decision to either close school, to open later than usual or open as usual and review the situation as the day progresses

If Bilton Grange school (and Kitchen) is closed, we are required to close school as meals cannot be provided.

We will post a message on the school website to alert you to the decision and text you – we will aim to do this by 7.30am though this may be later if any of the above situations change.

We will let you know about late opening by 8.30am at the latest. If school closes because of a deterioration of the weather mid-session, we will text you to pick up your children in plenty of time.

If school is going to be closed, we will also inform Greatest Hits Radio (the new name for Stray FM) (97.2FM) so that we are included in their listings. They only publicise school CLOSURES, not those open or re-opening.

When school is closed in this way, the procedure is very different to 'Covid-bubble closure' (when school is still officially open). During school closure due to weather conditions such as heavy snow, school will be logged with the Authority and Ofsted as being closed and online lessons will not be available, as they would be for Covid-related closure. These days of snow fun are ones that we all remember – on these days I would hope that children are able to build a snowman or make snow angels with their friends and family.

The Local Authority trusts schools to make every effort to stay open and we recognise that this can cause stress for parents/carers as you make journeys in difficult conditions, juggle work commitments and

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sometimes have to use holiday because you have no alternative childcare. We would like to assure you that we never take any decision to close school lightly and will only ever do this when absolutely necessary. Whilst we make every effort to stay open, this is only possible if enough staff can make it on site to fulfil health and safety ratios.

The teachers always set off and do their very best to get here but sometimes extreme circumstances can prevent them from completing their journey. Sometimes late opening may be more appropriate to allow you and the staff time to make the safest journey possible.

Families' journeys to school are diverse. For this reason, we ask that parents / carers make their own decision as to whether it is safe to walk / drive to school on snowy days. If you decide not to make the journey, please inform school via email [adminscps@gsfederation.com](mailto:adminscps@gsfederation.com).

**Do not telephone as admin staff may not be on site.**

Yours Sincerely,

Miss Z Pickard  
Headteacher