

Thursday 7th January 2010

Dear Parents,

Ref. Continuing Bad Weather

School closures are a very contentious issue and any decision to open or close a school during the current inclement weather can prove controversial. We take advice from many sources and consult with other schools in the area. Any decision to close the school is not taken lightly and is done in consultation with the Chair of Governors, taking into account all the advice that is available to the school at the time.

Unlike some of our neighbouring schools, most of our pupils can walk to school from the two communities of Stotfold and Arlesey and are not reliant on school buses. We are also of course conscious that parents would like their pupils to be taught if at all possible. **In sharing this aspiration, I would sincerely like to thank ALL of my staff, teaching and non-teaching, for making such a tremendous effort in getting the school up and running at 9.45am.**

Many of our teachers have to travel quite a distance to their place of work and it is testimony to their professionalism that they all managed to get into school this morning!

I would also like to thank you for all your efforts in getting your children into school this morning and I know just how treacherous our local roads are at the moment.

In view of the continuing difficulties, we are intending to have another late start in the morning to give staff and pupils that extra time to reach our school. **School will therefore start again tomorrow, Friday 8th January, with registration at 9.45am and I request that pupils do not arrive at school before then!**

I would like to remind you again of the procedures currently in place to inform you that the school may be closed because of severe weather conditions.

- We will endeavour to send a text message to parents on their mobile phone.
- Our own website is updated at the very earliest opportunity and you may wish to ensure that you are getting the most up-to-date news by clicking your browser's 'Refresh' button; or you may only see what remains in your computer's cache from a previous visit.
- Local Radio is informed at the earliest opportunity if we are closed and they are requested to announce it to their listeners as soon as possible (and on their website). *Heart (formerly Chiltern) and Three Counties are notified of emergency closures.*
- The Local Authority is also informed of any closure and they will update their website in due course.
- We will try and 'man the phone' as soon as we possibly can - *if staff can reach the school.*

With the cold weather continuing, please ensure that your child has warm clothing with them and coats are not left in school when they are also needed for the journey home!

I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding at this difficult time and assure you that we are doing our utmost to keep the school open for you and your children.

Yours sincerely

Ian Mitchell
Headteacher