

Dear Parents and Carers,

Severe Snow/Ice Plan for Parents and Families

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. 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. Ditton Infant School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting pathways, clearing access points and working with the staff of Ditton Junior School.

How will we let you 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 or partially close the school. Once this decision has been made we will notify parents via a text and email from ParentMail. We will also post regular updates on the homepage of our school website – www.ditton-inf.kent.sch.uk. You can also visit the Kent Closures website at www.kentclosures.co.uk to determine whether Ditton Infants is open or closed – please 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. Parents can also listen to KMFM, BBC Radio Kent or Heart FM to hear if the school has closed.

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 approach the school from Pear Tree Avenue as this area will be cleared first.
- You may be asked to provide a packed lunch from home in case school meals cannot be provided.
- Don't 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. You may want to add this person's name to your pick-up list to avoid unnecessary confusion on the day.
This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates. A member of staff will of course stay at school until all children have been collected safely.

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

Mrs C S Lewer
Headteacher