

Wedmore First School Academy and Nursery

Adverse Weather Policy

During the winter months there are occasions when we can experience adverse weather conditions. It is always very difficult when we have snow and ice to determine how this will affect travel etc and I would ask that you follow the policy below if we experience any bad weather over the next few weeks.

If at all possible the school will remain open and staff will be here as normal. However due to road conditions some staff may be late arriving and the start of the school day could be affected. We would ask, therefore, that children do not arrive on these days until 9.00am.

We would ask that you refer to the school website www.wedmorefirstschool.org.uk and your parentmail link until you are ready to leave for school so that you have the latest information. Anyone without access to parentmail or the website will be contacted directly by telephone.

The policy at Wedmore First School Academy for adverse weather conditions is as follows:

At the start of the school day

- The Headteacher, following advice obtained locally, will make a decision based on conditions at school and the surrounding roads and footpaths as to whether it is safe to open the school. The headteacher, where possible, will consult with neighbouring schools on the decision whether to close.
- To enable the school to open it may be necessary to delay the start time and again these details would be given to parents via parentmail and the school website.
- Information regarding school transport in bad conditions is very unreliable and we are quite unable to change this. If your coach does not turn up and you bring your child to school by car it is essential you collect your child at the close of school. You must be the best judge of local conditions and your decision to keep your child at home if in doubt seems to be a wise policy to adopt.

- Parents are asked to note that it may not be possible for staff to answer the telephone but it is our intention that the phone will be manned between 08:00 and 10:00 and 15:00 and 17:00, providing staff are able to reach school. Checking your parentmail link or viewing the school website for details of any closure is the preferred means of keeping up to date on developments. You may also be contacted by your local emergency information contact, or you may phone them. Numbers for these can be found on our severe weather telephone tree attached to this information.

During the school day

- Once a decision has been made to open the school it will **not** close during the day unless conditions seriously deteriorate.
- If the weather becomes severe during the day then parents may contact the school if they feel that they would like to collect their child early for safety reasons (i.e. traveling/walking long distances or collecting other children from local schools).
- The school will remain open until 3.25pm; however, if parents are delayed due to the adverse weather conditions, they should contact the school as soon as possible to give an anticipated arrival time.
- Children will be supervised until a parent/carer is able to collect them. The school will make every effort to contact parents/carers using all emergency contact information.
- Parents must consider their own safety, traffic congestion and safety of others in these circumstances and understand that children at Wedmore First School Academy will be cared for until it is possible for them to be collected.

This letter provides you with information regarding possible school closure in severe weather and we would ask that you keep this letter for future reference throughout the winter months.

Thank you



EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

We hope the winter will not be too unkind but in view of the problems we have experienced in the past, the following points might form useful guidance in the event of extreme weather conditions. If bad weather conditions arise please contact the following parents who have agreed to act as emergency information officers and will be, wherever possible, given current information regarding school closures.

Please **DO NOT** ring the school as we will need to keep the school telephone line free to pursue arising problems.

Bagley, Mudgley, Theale	Mrs J Farley	01934 713096
Blackford	Mrs V Arnstein	01934 712230
Burnham, Highbridge	Mrs F Brooks	07739 331143
Cheddar, Axbridge, Draycott	Mrs C Marsh	01934 742943
Cocklake, Clewer, Crickham	Mr & Mrs R Keen	01934 710759
Heath House, Sand	Mr R Walster	01934 710663
Mark, Biddisham, Brent Knoll	Mrs E Power	01278 641227
Meare, Westhay, Shapwick, Burtle	Mrs C Hallett	01458 860183
Nursery Contact	Mrs A Brooks	01934 710711
Panborough, Wells	Mr & Mrs J Burbedge	01934 782431
Wedmore	Mrs S Moreman	01934 710278
Wedmore	Mrs S Rant	01934 712389

Information regarding school transport in bad conditions is also thoroughly unreliable and we are quite unable to change this. If your coach does not turn up and you bring your child by car it is essential that you also collect your child at the close of school. You must be the best judge of your own local conditions and your decision to keep your child at home if in doubt seems to be a wise policy to adopt. If parents are concerned about extreme and worsening weather conditions during the day they should feel at liberty to pick children up early from school but, as stated previously, only you can make a judgement about such circumstances.

We are sure that you are aware that statements are broadcast about all school closures by local radio so stay tuned to

Heart 102.6 FM, (Taunton)

BBC Somerset 95.5 FM, 1565 MHz

online at bbc.co.uk/Somerset

However, as a rule you should always assume that the school and nursery **WILL BE OPEN**

The most important concern is the safety and wellbeing of our children at all times.

We trust that this information will be of use and that you will bear with us in the event of bad weather.