

Thomas Alleyne's High School Bad Weather Procedures

We would like to assure you that we appreciate how disruptive an unplanned school closure can be. We will continue to do all that we reasonably can to ensure that the school stays open during bad weather and that risks from snow and ice are minimised. This might involve closing off individual areas that have the potential to not be safe (such as paths or the playground) whilst continuing to operate the school as a whole.

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow or severe ice the prime concern of the school must always be the safety of the children and staff. Therefore if there are risks to the health and safety of the children, and there is nothing we can do to reduce those risks, a decision will be made to close the school in the best interests of all concerned. The Headteacher, in liaison with the Chair of Governors, will make that decision based on:

- the condition of roads and paths (both at school and in the surrounding area)
- the condition of heating, lighting, water and catering at the school
- the weather forecast
- The number of staff available to maintain safe pupil/teacher ratios

If the decision to close the school is taken, then there are likely to be two scenarios – either the decision is taken before school opens or (in very unusual sudden conditions) part way through the day. It is possible, that if we are not able to fully staff the school, we may open for some year groups only.

If the decision to close the school is made before school opens:

The school will make the decision as soon as possible based on the conditions which are present. Parents and carers will be notified through a variety of methods, alleviating the necessity to ring the school directly, which include:

- School texts that we will send to the mobile contact numbers we have on our records (**please let us know if your details have changed**)
- The Staffordshire County Council emergency school closure webpage (<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/schoolsandcolleges/emergencyclosures/>)
- Messages via insight, twitter and facebook
- Message on school website

If the decision to close the school is made during the school day:

This decision will only be made in changing or very sudden conditions. Parents and carers will be notified through a variety of methods, alleviating the necessity to ring the school directly, which include:

- Group texts that we will send to the mobile contact numbers we have on our records (**please let us know if your details have changed**)

What can you do to help?

- Please visit www.staffordshire.gov.uk/winter for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Staffordshire so you can plan your journey safely.
- You can also sign up for school closure alerts on <https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/scc/customeralerts/>
- If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden school closure or earlier pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.

Many thanks for your support

January 2019