



Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Bishops Down Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs C Owen

Winter 2016/17

Dear Parents and Guardians

Severe Weather Guidance

In previous years we have managed to keep the school open during the snow. Decisions about closure of the school will be made taking into account the health and safety of pupils, parents, staff and conditions on the school site such as ice and temperature.

KCC advice is, 'Parents and carers have the responsibility of getting children to and from school safely and need to decide if the journey is safe when severe weather affects transport and/or walking conditions. Parents/carers should inform schools if their child is absent due to severe conditions making the journey unsafe. Please consider this carefully and only keep children at home if conditions are unsafe.'

Please make sure that your children have adequate warm clothing as we are continuing to go outside during the day. Children must have a warm coat, boots (in snow), hats, scarves and thick socks. I am also keen to ensure that no family that is particularly vulnerable struggles unnecessarily when others might be able to help. For example, I am aware that some families with very young children or babies might find getting to school particularly stressful. If you are in difficulty, or might be able to assist by picking neighbours children up, then please let us know.

I would like to discourage all cars from using Rydal Drive and Coniston Avenue where possible. This will help to prevent accidents. During cold, icy and snowy weather many staff walk or park close to Bennett School and find that the wider road makes it easier to negotiate the roads.

Late opening and/or early closure is a possibility in poor weather conditions and we would inform you in advance if this were to happen, though it is very unlikely. If conditions worsen during the school day and parents feel it is absolutely necessary to collect children, the school should be contacted prior to collection.

Finally, we are using the school website **www.bishopsdownprimary.org** as our main source of weather and closure information. This is the quickest and most reliable source as local radio stations and parent mail become clogged up. For those without computers we will continue to use ParentMail texts when the school closes, however information may be delayed.

Please ensure that your contact details are up to date. Should we have to close, messages will also be posted on: www.kentschoolclosures.co.uk.

Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

C Owen
Headteacher