



Dulwich Hamlet Junior School

www.dulwichhamletjuniorschool.org.uk

Snow or Bad Weather Plan January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems that it might be timely to disseminate information with regards to bad weather, specifically snow!

We will always try our best to open school, whatever the weather conditions. Providing we can ensure safety for all of our Hamleteers, from a personnel and facilities perspective, school will be open. While there may be those of you who would embrace a 'Snow Day', we fully appreciate how disruptive it can be to families and wish to keep this to a minimum. We wish to maintain continuity of learning for the children. Our staff have always gone to great lengths to find alternative means of transport following a heavy snowfall; we expect all pupils to attend school as per usual.

Please read the information listed below carefully, every school will have a plan that is unique to their own local setting and can be quite different.

The School's Responsibilities:

- On the morning following a heavy snowfall, we will ensure the school site is safe for our school community: our pupils and our staff. We will make a decision as to whether the school will open or close as early as possible.
- Our aim will be to **text message all parents by 7:30am on the day of significant snow**, indicating whether the school is open, and whether we request that your child brings in a packed lunch (in the possible event of no kitchen service)
- We will aim to **update the website by 7:30am**, and **send a twitter update by 7:30am**
<http://twitter.com/Dulwichhamlet>
- We will provide the maximum amount of staff that can physically get to the school premises safely, even if some arrive after 8:55am
- We will strive to organise as normal a teaching day as possible, bearing in mind there may be reduced staff and larger class sizes
- As per our usual procedure, we will follow-up an absence in order to account for all pupils
- We will endeavour to keep our club provision as well as our Before and After School Care running if school is open, however, it may be possible that we have to cancel After School Care and clubs to allow staff the ability to return home safely, should conditions worsen. We will notify you at the earliest opportunity

The Parents/Carers Responsibilities:

- You will have provided us with the **most up to date mobile phone numbers** so that we can contact you by 7:30am
- We ask that you **refrain from calling the school until 9am**. It may not be possible to staff the office immediately, and we will need to keep lines clear to liaise with our staff. Any information regarding whether the school is open/closed and if your child requires a packed lunch will be clearly available on the website, and sent to you by text/tweet. If you then need to call to report a normal absence, or have a general enquiry, we will then be in a

position to take your calls as per normal if the school is open, or between **9am and 10am if the school is to be closed that day.**

- We ask that following any adverse weather conditions, you send your child in warmly and dressed appropriately, including coats and a change of footwear, taking extra precautions in the event of icy conditions and ensuring that your child arrives at school safely. (We will allow the children to have fun in the snow! Just no throwing to be encouraged please)
- We ask that children are picked up on time at the end of the school day, and from clubs/After School Care, by adjusting your own travel plans in case of travel disruption

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C.L. Purcell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue highlight behind the text.

Claire Purcell

(Head of School)