



21 November 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

Adverse Weather and School Closure

Following the flooding of Derby Road which occurred before half term, it felt prudent to remind parents about our protocol in the event of severe weather.

Severe Weather Conditions Before Departure for School

Safety will always be the first consideration. Any decision to close the school because of severe weather will be taken in the light of local conditions and an assessment of risk in relation to safety and appropriate staffing levels. The decision will be made by the Executive Headteacher and Head of School in liaison with the Site Manager. Where possible, advanced warning will be given but the following steps will be taken to inform parents and carers of school closure in the morning:

- Text message
- An announcement on the school website (www.ifcs.org.uk)
- An announcement on our social media channels (Facebook / Twitter)

In this instance, students will be provided with online learning through Class Charts.

Severe or Deteriorating Weather Conditions During the Day

With our students' safety in mind, we will keep a constant check on road reports and weather forecasts. If conditions worsen during the day, it would normally be our policy:

- to notify parents via text message that the school will be closing early
- to contact the bus companies to arrange an earlier pick up for students who catch the bus. However, this is at each bus company's discretion
- to remain open for students who are unable to get home
- to enable students to begin their journey home before the weather worsens

There have been two instances this calendar year where inclement weather has caused the school to close. Whilst evaluating the school's response, we also felt it important to ask the following of parents:

- Please try to limit contact with your child via mobile phone before you have received official communication from the school. We understand that some parents will be anxious to communicate arrangements with their child. However, it does make it more difficult for staff in school to keep all students calm and reassured.
- On both occasions, a number of parents arrived on site without warning which led to our reception area becoming crowded and added to the pressure on our staff in locating students. This lessened the effectiveness and the efficiency of the team on that day, which is something we do not wish to compromise. Moving forward, it is important that if you are exceptionally concerned about your child's journey home for a specific extenuating reason and you wish to collect them from school earlier than our proposed plan, that you make this request by contacting us on 01332 880260 before reporting to Main Reception.
- In managing a challenging situation, we recognise that both parents and staff are under some stress and pressure. Therefore, please be mindful of our school vision of creating a 'culture of kindness' when speaking to our staff as they work hard to direct the movement of students offsite in an orderly fashion.

Subsequent Day(s)

Should a subsequent day(s) of closure be necessary, the methods listed above will be used to notify all parents/carers.

Finally, if you do not receive information from the school to the contrary, please assume that school will be open as usual.

Thank you for your support with this. In these circumstances which are extremely infrequent, our intention is to ensure that all students and staff are safe and supported.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Hilton
Head of School