



Westlands Primary School

A member of Swale Academies Trust



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VTP/ELB/Snow Plan

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Dear Parents/Carers

Severe Snow/Ice Plan for Parents and Families

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service.

As a fundamental principle every effort must be made to keep schools open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend. However schools may close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances; for example it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite.

We recognise that it is important our school remains open so that parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. Here at Westlands Primary School we will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting the main pathways and entrances to the school and by keeping the main access gates clear too.

If the weather conditions deteriorate during the school day we may need to close the school early and will contact you via text message. Please make sure that you keep the office up-to-date with your mobile contact details.

How will we let you me know if the school is closed?

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, we may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made we will notify parents in the following ways:

- We will send a text message to parents to inform you that we will be closed for the day.
- Our school website will be updated to confirm our closure.
- You can visit www.kentclosures.co.uk and search for our school in the search box.
- You can visit <https://opencheck.atomwide.com> and search for our school in the search box.
- Our Facebook and Twitter profiles

We also recommend parents sign up for SMS/Email alerts on the Kent Closures website. This service will send an SMS or email alert to let parents know if Westlands Primary School is closed, but please be aware that there may be a charge for this service.

What can you do to help?

- Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/winter for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.
- Don't forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing.
- If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden 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 in helping Westlands Primary School remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.

Yours sincerely

Mrs V Pettett
Head of School