



STAPLEHURST SCHOOL

Headteacher
Mrs C. Farthing

Gybbon Rise, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0LZ
Tel: 01580 891765 Fax: 01580 891291
e-mail: headteacher@staplehurst.kent.sch.uk
office@staplehurst.kent.sch.uk
www.staplehurstschool.co.uk

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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. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite.

We recognise that it is important our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. **Staplehurst School** will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by ensuring there is adequate heating and pathways are cleared.

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

However, if we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, I may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made we will notify you:

- BY TEXT, and via
- the Kent Closures website.

Please assume the school is OPEN unless you receive a text or hear about a closure on the Kent Closures website.

To determine whether we will be open or closed please visit www.kentclosures.co.uk. Search for the school in the search box. The Kent Closures website can also be used to find out if other services in Kent are open or closed, such as nurseries, children's centres and libraries. 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 **[name of school]** is closed. Parents can also listen to KMFM, BBC Radio Kent or Heart FM to hear if the school has closed.

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.
- Please approach the school from Bathurst Road into Gybbon Rise.
- Please can you provide a packed lunch from home in case school meals cannot be provided.
- 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 Staplehurst School remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.

Yours sincerely

Cathy Farthing
Headteacher

