

## Ditton CE Junior School

### Severe Snow/Ice Plan for Parents and Families

12<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice and although we are having some mild weather at the moment, things can change very quickly so at this time of year I always send out a snow plan just in case.

School may close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite or not possible to get staff here to cover children adequately.

We recognise that it is important our school remains open if possible, so parents can work, and pupils can continue to learn. We will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting pathways, clearing access points, and working with the staff of Ditton Infant School.

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

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, I may have to take the decision to close or partially close the school. If open we will start school slightly later at 10.00 to allow you and staff time to travel as many live outside the local area. I will try to make this decision as early as possible but need to be guided by the ability for staff to travel safely. Once this decision has been made, we will notify parents via the **Kent Closures website**. To determine whether Ditton Juniors is open or closed please visit [www.kentclosures.co.uk](http://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 we are closed. We will also endeavour to send out a Parentmail and add something to the school website **if we are not opening as normal**. Please check your emails and the website before calling the school.

**On a heavy snow affected day, if not closed, we will endeavour to open for 10.00. This allows everyone to travel safely and roads to be cleared. We will allow collection from outside classrooms from 2.45. Again this allows people to get home safely including staff.**

#### ***What can you do to help?***

- Please visit [www.kent.gov.uk/winter](http://www.kent.gov.uk/winter) for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.
- You may be asked to provide a packed lunch from home in case school meals cannot be provided due to deliveries being delayed and kitchen staff not being able to attend work.
- Don't forget suitable warm named 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 later drop off or earlier pick up, please could you put a back up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school. Please add this person's name to your pick-up list to avoid unnecessary confusion on the day as we will not let children go home with anyone who is not on the pick up list and would like to ensure that collection from school is as quick and smooth as possible. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates. A member of staff will of course stay at school until all children have been collected safely.

As we now have processes in place for remote learning, teachers will still be able to provide some activities for your child to do at home if we do have to close all or parts of the school. Many thanks in advance for your continued support.

Richard Sutton-Smith  
Interim Headteacher