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'Empowering children through sustainable, diverse, arts-enriched education'

Bad Weather Closure Policy

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the school Governors. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
2. Conditions on site are dangerous.
3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

Once the decision has been made to either close the school or delay opening you will be notified via SMS text. It is therefore important that we have your correct mobile telephone number.

Our school website www.thornhill-primary.co.uk will also be updated accordingly.

PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE SCHOOL TO SEE IF WE ARE OPEN.

The school also updates Central Bedfordshire SOS service which has a direct link to the local radio stations. Please listen to local radio for school closure announcements.

As a parent you can also register to receive SOS messages from Central Bedfordshire. Please see below how to register:

Using SOS to register to receive alerts

In order to receive an update on the school's open status, you need to register on Central Bedfordshire Council's SOS system:

Go to: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/webApps/SOS/>

Click on 'register for updates' and fill in the text boxes

Click on 'submit'

You will then receive an email which contains instructions on how to 'activate' your account which will include a 'one off' activation code:

Click on the link: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/webApps/SOS/>

Go to 'Log in to edit your details' and type in your email address and the activation code.

Remember to update your details; type in your email address and password.



The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact the school to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed. The school recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of children can get into school. In such instances parents should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the school has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each case so as to be able to formally authorise the absence to the Local Authority.

Parents acting on the assumption that the school would be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevents the child coming into school, risks their child being registered as an un-authorised absence. Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence.

If the weather deteriorates significantly during the day, the school may decide to close early to allow children and staff to return home safely. Parents and carers will be contacted accordingly.

SCHOOL PREMISES

In the event of snow the Premises Manager or facilities team will be clear and salt pathways. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous.

Before and after school parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground.

Essential pathways will be kept as clear as possible throughout the day. On school days where the school is closed to pupils, the pathway will still be maintained during snow and icy weather on a daily basis by the Premises Manager, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent build-up of ice and snow.

Children should come to school in boots or wellingtons in bad weather and bring a pair of school shoes to change in to.

