



ADVERSE WEATHER AND SCHOOL CLOSURE PROCEDURES

Signed*Edd Dunkin*.....
On behalf of the Governing Body

Date : October 2017 Review: October 2019

It would be extremely rare for West Tytherley CE Primary School to have to close on a day when it should be open to pupils. However, it is possible that for health and safety reasons such as the failure of power, heating or water supply, we would be unable to remain open.

In addition, there are occasions (especially during the winter months) when we can experience adverse weather conditions and these could also cause the closure of the school at short notice. It is always very difficult, when we have snow, ice or floods, to determine how this will affect travel to and from school. In all cases, we would ask that you follow the policy based upon advice from HCC, if we experience any severe weather.

The advice from Hampshire County Council is:

'The decision to close a school is for local management, to be made by the Headteacher in consultation with the Chair of Governors. Decisions should be based on a risk assessment, taking into consideration the conditions at the school and the health and safety of staff and pupils.'

If at all possible the school will remain open and staff will be on-site as normal. However, a decision to close the school may be appropriate. This decision will be based upon the following factors:

- Access routes to and from school are unsafe for any or all staff, children or visitors
- Conditions on site and on the approach to the school site are hazardous to pupils & staff
- Health & Safety requirements are unable to be met to the appropriate standard
- Legal requirements would not be satisfactorily met ('responsible manager', qualified teacher, adequate ratio or paediatric first aider present on site)

The Policy at West Tytherley Primary School for adverse weather conditions is that:

At the start of the school day

The Headteacher and Chair of Governors, following advice obtained locally, will make a decision as to whether it is appropriate to open the school. This decision will be based

upon the site conditions of the school, the surrounding roads & footpaths and the ability for staff to travel safely. #

Parents should follow the guidance above to find out the most up-to-date information regarding school closures. Once a decision to close the school has been made, we will make every effort to inform you by email and on our school website.

Information on whether the school is closed can be found out by:

- listening to Radio Solent (103.8 FM), Spire (102.0 FM) and Wave (105.2 FM)
- checking HCC website on <http://www.hants.gov.uk/schoolclosures>
- checking our school website homepage on www.west-tytherley.hants.sch.uk
- checking your email for any messages from the school
- contacting our school main telephone number 01794 340338

Or by contacting a member of staff after 8.00am, as follows:

Area	Staff member	Contact
East Tytherley or Lockerley	Mrs Rose	01794 341118
West Tytherley or Winterslow	Mrs Newitt	01794 341769
West or East Dean	Mrs Bowyer	01794 340746
Winterslow / Alderbury / Grimstead	Mrs Furness	01722 712465
<i>For Breakfast Club information</i>	Mrs Rose	01794 341118 after 7.30

In certain circumstances, such as the late arrival of sufficient appropriate staff, it may be necessary to *delay* the start time and again these details would be given to parents via local radio, Hampshire County Website, email and the main school website.

If you judge that your child cannot attend school on an adverse weather day, please contact the school by phone between 9:00am – 10.00am.

During the school day

Once a decision has been made to open the school it will **be highly unlikely to close** during the day.

However, if the weather becomes severe during the day, then parents may contact the school if they feel that they would like to collect their child early for safety reasons (ie travelling/walking long distances or collecting other children from local schools). Please continue to check the HCC and School websites for information.

On snowy days, please could you ensure that children bring a change of clothes and wrap up warmly so that we can use the outside space. It is also advisable to send your children with a packed lunch, in case we are unable to provide school dinners.

The school will remain open until 3.15pm. However, if parents are delayed due to the adverse weather conditions, they should contact the school as soon as possible to give an anticipated arrival time. In such circumstances, children will be supervised until a parent/carer is able to collect them.

At the end of the school day

If it is perfectly obvious, because of current conditions or a forecast of imminent snowfall or icy conditions for the following day, then a decision on further school closure will be made the evening before. This is to give carers the maximum time to arrange alternative child-care.

Arrangements for ensuring continuity of learning:

We will clearly make every effort to keep the school open to avoid any break in our pupils' education, but in circumstances where there has been a severe weather warning, as a precaution and in order to enable education to be continued, the school will endeavour to set homework for the children on the previous day.