



BROOKFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Severe Snow/Ice Plan for Parents and Families



9th January 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. As we know, extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain the continuity of education for our children.

The Department for Education takes the following standpoint:-

“Schools should, wherever possible, stay open in severe weather. They play a key role in their communities and by staying open help both their pupils and parents.”

DfE guidance:-

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 that our schools stay open so parents are able to work and our pupils can continue to learn. Here at Brookfield we are making every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting the main pathways and entrances to the school when necessary and by keeping the main access gates clear too.

How will we let you 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 our school. Once this decision has been made we will notify parents in two ways:-

1. We will send a text message to inform you that Brookfield is closed for that day.
2. We will inform the Kent Closures website that the school is closed for that day.

To find out whether Brookfield is open or closed please go to the website:

- www.kentclosures.co.uk
- Search for Brookfield Junior School in the search box
- The information will appear on the screen ~ OPEN or CLOSED

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.

Please note it is possible for parents to 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 Brookfield Junior School is closed ~ though please be aware there may be a charge for this service.

KMFM, BBC Radio Kent and Heart FM regularly broadcast news about school closures.

What can you do to help?

- Please use the school’s main gate and main entrance door when arriving at school.
- Don’t forget suitable warm clothing ~ coat/jacket, gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc.
- 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 also leave earlier for their safety if the weather situation dictates.

Many thanks for your support in helping Brookfield Junior School remain open during periods of severe snow and ice.

Yours sincerely

M J Blewer

Mrs M Blewer
Head Teacher

