



Chapel-en-le-Frith High School

November 2017

Dear Parents

Arrangements in the event of severe weather

As winter begins to take hold, I thought it might be useful to remind you of our arrangements for dealing with severe weather.

We are committed to ensuring that the school remains open if possible and over the last six years have managed to remain open on all but five days. However, we can reach a point where we cannot open either because the state of the roads means we cannot get sufficient staff to school to supervise students or because we cannot make the site safe for students. The first of these reasons is by far the most common reason for schools closing.

In periods of severe weather, you should use our website as your first source of information.

Red text on the website home page will display the latest information outlining the effect of the weather on arrangements at school. We will try to use this facility to give you prior warning of possible problems and to let you know our thinking if disruption seems likely. Please ensure that you have our website address www.chapelhigh.org.uk and that you refresh the page to see the latest message. Messages will include a time and date.

Should conditions be so serious that the school cannot open we will:

- put a message on our website, we will aim to do this by 7.00 am;
- inform the bus and taxi companies;
- send a text message to all parents who are on our system as first contact;
- inform High Peak Radio.

If you do not hear from us, and there is nothing on our website, you should assume that the school is open as usual. Please note that telephoning school for information rarely works as the lines rapidly "jam" with calls, please don't call us early on the morning of a snowy day unless it is urgent.

Please do not rely on other radio stations or the Derbyshire County Council website for information; they can be unreliable.

There will be times when the buses are not able to run; if this is the case, we will try to communicate arrangements to you on our website and by text. Even without buses it may be that we are able to open for students who can make their own way to school.

Once the school is open we try very hard not to close during the day. If we have to close:

- we will send a text message to all parents on our system as first contact;
- we will post a message on our website;
- we will contact the buses and try to arrange for students to be transported home early;
- students who live in Chapel-en-le-Frith will be dismissed to walk home.

In bad weather, it is likely that after school clubs and activities will be cancelled; we will try to keep you informed. Cancelled clubs are often announced over the tannoy in school during the school day; please encourage your child to listen for such messages as experience suggests that in the excitement of poor weather, messages can be missed.

We will only open the school if we are sure that the site is safe and that we have adequate supervision. **It is not our responsibility to judge whether it is safe for children to travel to school, you need to make that decision.**

We would like you to support as far as possible our efforts to maintain "business as usual" but we understand that, in bad weather, some students cannot safely get to school, especially from more remote areas. In these circumstances, we will authorise absence.

You may wish to take this opportunity to consider your contingency plans for childcare should school be closed this winter. It would be useful if you could also agree a plan with your child as to what they should do if school ever has to close early or if a planned after school activity is cancelled.


These plans may include:

- making their own way home;
- going home with a trusted friend;
- going to a relative's house.

Having these arrangements in place before severe weather sets in makes life easier for all concerned.

Thank you for your support; we will see what this winter has in store for us.

Yours faithfully



Simon Grieves
Headteacher