

17 December 2018

Dear Parents

### **Re Severe Weather Conditions**

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service.

As a fundamental principle every effort must be made to keep schools open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend. At Ryarsh we try to remain open in all but the most severe conditions. However, we do sometimes close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances, when it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite.

We recognise that it is important our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. We will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting pathways and clearing access points.

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

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, Mrs Austin may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made we will notify parents via the Kent Closures website. To determine whether Ryarsh Primary School 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 Email alerts on the Kent Closures website. This service will send you an email alert to let you know if we are closed. In addition, we will use Parentmail and our school website to inform parents of the current situation. Parents can also listen to local radio to hear if the school has closed.

### **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.
- Please can you provide a packed lunch from home in case school meals cannot be provided.
- Don't forget suitable warm 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 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 leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.
- Please do not contact the school by telephone to enquire whether we are open.

- Please consider whether it is safe for you and your child/children to travel to school. Parents have the responsibility of getting their child/children to and from school safely and need to decide if the journey is safe when severe weather affects transport and/or walking conditions.
- Please inform the school if your child is absent due to severe conditions making the journey unsafe. If your child has a disability and/or learning difficulty your decision to take the journey must take this into consideration. **Please consider carefully and only keep children at home if you consider the conditions are unsafe.**

Many thanks for your support in helping us remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Austin  
Headteacher