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Postley Road
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Kent ME15 6TL

8th December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Severe Snow - Ice Plan for Parents and Families

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 school stays open so that parents are able to work and our pupils can continue to learn. Here at South Borough we will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting the main pathways and entrances to the school and by keeping the main access gates clear too.

If the weather deteriorates during the day we may need to close the school early and will contact you via text message. Please make sure you keep the office up to date with your mobile contact details.

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 between 7.00am and 7.30am to parents to inform you that South Borough 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 South Borough is open or closed please go to the website:

- www.kentclosures.co.uk
- Search for South Borough Primary School in the search box
- The information will appear on the screen - OPEN or CLOSED – you will need to check every day please.

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 South Borough Primary 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.

A Learning Ladder for Life



Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA
Director of Primary: Mr M Wilson
Swale Academies Trust Registered Office: Ashdown House Johnson Road Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1JS
Registered in England No: 7344732



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 South Borough Primary School remain open during periods of severe snow and ice.

Yours sincerely
Mrs J. Olivier
Executive Headteacher

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