

## Snow and Bad Weather Procedures

There are occasions when the school has to be closed in order to ensure the safety of children, their parents and the staff. In most cases the decision to close is made if snow or ice means the roads are unsafe or if the school site is deemed unsafe. Similarly, if a significant number of staff are unable to travel to school because of the severe conditions, then the decision to close may also be necessary. It is, however, our desire and intention to keep the school open whenever possible. With this in mind we run a 'Late Start Day' instead of full school closure.

A 'Late Start Day' will mean that school will start at 10.00am, and will then finish at 3.00pm. Parents can leave children on site from 9:40am onwards (please ensure two members of staff are on site before you leave your child). We have successfully used 'Late Start Days' in previous winters when the local roads have not been gritted, it gives parents an opportunity to assess travelling conditions for themselves, in the light, and to travel when roads are a little quieter.

We aim to provide as much advance notice of a 'Late Start Day' as possible and parents will be alerted to the possibility of a 'Late Start Day' the day before. The final decision of either 'Late Start Day' or full school closure will be communicated as early as possible, on the morning in question, via the normal communication channels, which include:

- School website
- BBC Radio Cumbria
- CFM
- School to Parent Texts

The same process and method of communication will then be followed on each subsequent day of severe weather.

Similarly, the school may need to organise an 'Early Finish' to enable children and staff to return home safely. This will be communicated in the same way.

We fully appreciate the disruption caused during bad weather and we do try to keep school open.