

Extreme Weather Policy

During periods of severe weather parents should ensure that they regularly check their e-mails, the school website and their mobile telephones in case the school closes. If your mobile telephone number or e-mail has changed you should update this via the Parent Portal.

What is the school procedure for extreme weather?

It is our policy to keep the school open if at all possible where there is severe weather. Parents have the responsibility of getting their children to and from school safely and need to decide if the journey is safe when snow or bad weather affects transport and/or walking conditions. Parents should inform the school by phone or e-mail if their child is absent due to the severe weather conditions making the journey unsafe. Parents should ensure that their children have appropriate clothing and footwear for the conditions. School uniform will therefore be optional.

Why do we close the school?

Occasionally it may be necessary to close the school. Often staff are unable to get to school due to the conditions, emergency services may not be able to get into school or fire escapes may be blocked. In such cases we cannot guarantee the safety of the children and so the school will close until it is safe. The Health and Safety of the pupils and staff is paramount.

How will we find out if the school is closed?

On an occasion where the school does need to close, a message will go out on the school website usually by 7.00am. A text message will also be sent by ParentMail but this may be delayed due to the volume of messages being sent across the network, so please check the school website before setting out.

How do we know when the school will re-open?

Messages will appear on the website throughout the day to keep parents informed of the current position, text messages and e-mails will also be sent.



What happens if we are late for school due to the conditions or traffic?

If your child arrives late for school, he/she must, as is normal practice, report to the School Office and wait to be registered. It is important that we know who is in school throughout the day by registering. We will not mark children as late in these circumstances, we would rather you arrive to school safely.

What happens with the Minibus service?

Your minibus driver will contact you as soon as possible to advise you as to whether the minibus service will be operating.

What happens if the weather worsens during the day?

Updates will be put on to the school website throughout the day. We ask you not to call the School Office to see if the school is closing, but instead check the website as any information will be on there.

If the weather or road conditions worsen during the day, parents may decide to collect their child/children earlier than normal. Parents should e-mail the school office at office@bansteadprep.com before arrival so that the staff can arrange for your child to be ready. Children taken before normal pick-up time must be signed out before they leave the school premises. If you are unable to get to school, please make arrangements with another parent or a family member to have your child collected.

If the school decides to close due to the conditions around the school worsening, parents will be contacted by e-mail and text message, along with a message on the website.

How can you help?

We ask that you keep an eye on your e-mail, phone and the website to receive the latest information. Please ensure that your details are up to date on the BPS Parent Portal and on ParentMail, both systems allow the parent to update telephone and e-mail details. This is important to enable you to receive the messages.

Messages for assistance will appear on the website. Typically, this will ask any local parents or children to bring in a snow shovel to help clear pathways, fire escapes and driveways.

Next Review: Sept 2022