



Making a difference, as we grow together

Winter weather plan

Alderman Pounder Infant and Nursery School



Approved by:	Headteacher	Date: 18.11.24
Last reviewed on:	November 2024	
Next review due by:	Autumn 2025	

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head Teacher. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
- Conditions on site are dangerous.
- Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact the school to let them know they are on their way and likely to be delayed.

School Closure Procedures

If the school is to close prior to the start of the school day:

- Staff will be contacted by the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Preparation will be made for children to revert to remote learning.
- The closure will be recorded on the school's website.
- Parents who have provided up to date mobile phone numbers and/or email addresses will be alerted to the closure using the school communication system activated by the Headteacher once the closure has been decided. A notice will also be posted on Class Dojo.
- BBC Radio Nottingham will be advised of the school closure to broadcast it through their channels.
- The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed of the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places considerable difficulties upon parents. However, parents are expected to check the website and/or ClassDojo when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.
- Children are expected to continue their learning at home and advice will be provided on the school website.

In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances:

- Parents will be contacted by text message and email in the first instance to advise them of the early closure and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.
- Children are expected to continue their learning at home and advice will be provided on the school website.

Site Safety

- In the event of snow and ice, we will endeavour to clear and salt pathways from the main gates to entrances, and a route across the playground. **Parents, children and visitors should be aware that pathways, even where cleared, can remain dangerous and should take due care.** Children will also be reminded of this during the school day.
- Before and after school opening hours, parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground.
- Essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day. The school will salt particularly hazardous areas of the school site.
- Staff have been made aware that the car park will not be completely cleared of ice and snow and that due care must be taken at all times.
- On school days where the school is closed to pupils, the site team and senior staff will monitor conditions in order to re-open the school as soon as it is safe to do so.

- During significant adverse weather conditions, we will communicate by text if doors will be opened earlier to allow a flexible drop off.
- During adverse weather conditions, the playgrounds may be out of bounds at the beginning and end of school, and if necessary, at break times as well.
- In the Headteacher's absence the most senior leader on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Winter Weather plan.

Impact on Staff

- Our first priority is for the children and staff of Alderman Pounder Infant & Nursery School. However, it is understood that members of staff will also need to take responsibility for their own children as well as their own transport arrangements in adverse weather conditions.
- When the school is open, it is expected that all staff will do their best to get to work even if this means that they will be late. Keeping the school informed of any problems that staff encounter is a priority.
- If pupils are dismissed during the school day, we will need to ensure adequate supervision for those who remain in school. Staff will be informed by a member of SLT as to when they can leave. This will be done as soon as is reasonably possible. Priority will be given to those staff who have been advised by their child's school that their child must be collected because their school is closing and also for those staff who live furthest away.
- If the school is closed, staff should ensure that learning is available on ClassDojo to allow children to continue at home. Staff will use any snow closure time to continue working at home.