

Nursery Hill Primary School

Ansley Common

Nuneaton



Adverse Weather Policy

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.

Reasons for School Closure

The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely;
2. Conditions on site are dangerous;
3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel;
4. We are unable to heat the school;
5. We are unable to provide hot meals.

Communicating the Closure

If the school is to close:

1. The closure will be reported to Warwickshire County Council by the Head Teacher. This information will be displayed to the public via Warwickshire website (<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures>). Local Radio Stations will also be contacted by the Head Teacher (Heart 100.7 FM and BBC Coventry and Warwickshire 94.8 FM) will then broadcast details.
2. Parents who have opted into the scheme will be alerted to the closure using the text messaging service activated by the Head Teacher once the closure has been logged with the County Council.

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents. However parents are expected to check the website and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

Lateness and Absence

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 if likely to be delayed.

The school recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of children can get into school. In such instances parents should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the school has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each case so as to be able to formally authorise the absence to the Local Authority.

Parents acting on the assumption that the school would be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevents the child coming into school risks their child being registered as an un-authorised absence.

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence. Any absence caused due to school closure will not affect attendance prizes for that term.

Closure during School Hours

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 phone either at home or work and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances. However, After School Club will be unlikely to operate in such weather. Parents who use the Club will be informed separately throughout the day if Club is likely to close.

Pathways

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this in assembly. Before and after school opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground.

In icy conditions, a designated member of staff will salt a wide pathway from the front gate to the front door. Where necessary, this essential pathway will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day.

On school days where the school is closed to pupils but open to staff, the pathway will still be maintained during snow and ice on a daily basis by a designated member of staff, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent build up of ice and snow.

Entry into School

During significant adverse weather conditions, the School Hall will be open from 8.40am for parents to bring their children inside. All parents should enter the school with their child directly by the front entrance, and report to the office before taking themselves and their child into the hall. Parents may be required to supervise their children in the hall until staff are ready to formally take supervision of the children. Parents are asked to leave the school immediately as soon as the staff have taken over.

During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds to parents and children at the beginning and end of school, and if the Head Teacher decides it necessary, at break times as well.

Responsibility for Enforcing Policy

Only the Head Teacher has the authority to close the school. In the Head Teacher's absence the most senior teacher on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored on a day to day basis by the Head Teacher, who reports to the governors on request about the effectiveness of the policy. This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if necessary.