

# East Farleigh Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

## ***Severe Snow/Ice Plan for Parents and Families***

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service.

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. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite.

We recognise that it is important our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. At East Farleigh we will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting pathways, clearing access points etc. As you know, due to the nature of the local roads and the difficulties of access we cannot always guarantee to be able to open on time and, in the interests of safety, we will always give a high priority to safe access to the site. As a result we may be forced to close when roads are inaccessible or considered dangerous. **There are times when it may not be necessary to close the school completely and we will always consider opening the building partially or slightly later than normal. Once traffic has eased and the local roads have had a chance to clear, access may become possible and safer. In this instance, our position would be to try to open the school by 10am provided we have staff and a safe site.**

### ***How will we let you me 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 the school. Once this decision has been made we will notify parents via the Kent Closures website. Information will also be posted on the school website and Parentmail. To determine whether the school is open or closed or a delayed opening please visit [www.kentclosures.co.uk](http://www.kentclosures.co.uk). Search for the school in the search box. 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. We also suggest parents may wish 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 the school is closed. Parents can also listen to KMFM, BBC Radio Kent or Heart FM to hear if the school has closed. (You will be charged for this service) Experience shows that these websites may be subject to delay due to high usage so please be patient and revisit regularly. The school website can be reached via [www.east-farleigh.kent.sch.uk](http://www.east-farleigh.kent.sch.uk). Although not always possible, we will endeavour to post messages as soon as the information is available.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



***What can you do to help?***

- Please visit [www.kent.gov.uk/winter](http://www.kent.gov.uk/winter) for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.
- Please approach the school from **Lower Road and walk up Vicarage Lane if possible.**
- Please be aware you may need to provide a packed lunch from home in case school meals cannot be provided. We will try to get this information to you as soon as possible.
- Don't forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing.
- 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 leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.
- Please ensure you are registered with Parentmail

Many thanks for your support.

Best Regards

P Sapwell  
Headteacher