

School Newsletter Spring 2018 - Special Edition

5th March 2018

Snow Days

Thank you for all of your patience and support over the snow days. Over 3000 schools shut nationally on 28th February – 2nd March. When closing I consider the circumstances very carefully. The decision was not taken lightly because I know the knock on effects all too well.



The process of deciding started when the weather warnings came through and continued late into the night. The following are things I consider when making my decision:

- How severe is the weather?
- Can I get to school safely and if not can my assistant heads and other senior staff?
- Will there be appropriate experienced staff to manage safeguarding and health and safety on site including qualified first aiders and paediatric first aiders?
- Can sufficient numbers of staff reach school safely to provide education/ child care?
- Can families get to school safely?
- Can children move around safely outside, for instance if we had to evacuate quickly?
- If we had to evacuate, would it be safe for our children to be outside for a sustained period?
- Could the emergency services reach us quickly if necessary?
- Will staff be able to get home safely?
- Could opening school ultimately mean we place other services under further pressure by increasing traffic incidents when police have issued warnings not to travel?

At Roach Vale Primary School we consider if the benefits outweigh the risks. I have to consider the safety needs of our children, the community, of staff and the wider possible impact on services. On this occasion my judgement was that the risks were greater than the benefits so I regrettably closed the school for three days. I have never done this for this amount of time before and it was not an easy option.

Thank you once again for your patience and understanding.



Mrs Sampson
Headteacher