

Stanford Infant School



SNOW POLICY

The children will be delighted if snow arrives but it may cause one or two problems. We will always do everything we can to remain open during snowy weather; however, the safety and well-being of our children and staff are of utmost importance to us and any decision to close the school will be taken after we have considered the following:

- * are there enough staff members, including a qualified first aider – we may decide to open later to allow more time for staff and children to make their way into school safely;
- * are the school grounds sufficiently clear of snow/ice to be safe for access;
- * It is possible you will be asked to provide your child with a packed lunch as the kitchen may not be operational.

Snowfall Overnight

If there is heavy snowfall overnight, we will need to decide whether it is safe to open the school. We will do everything possible to make our decision by 7:00am. A message will be sent to all parents/carers informing them of our decision. If we decide not to open, we will notify the following radio stations, which broadcast school closures on air:

Heart FM and BBC Southern Counties Radio

We will also put a message on the School Website www.stanfordinfants.co.uk.

The website will be updated from 6am.

If possible, we will also put a sign on the School Gates, saying that the school is closed and giving any further update or point of contact.

The above procedures include Breakfast Club.

Snowfall during the School Day

If there is heavy snowfall during the school day, we will contact parents/carers via our various communication channels to let them know what time the school is closing and ask them to arrange for their child to be picked up.

Members of school staff who live in vulnerable geographical areas will be invited to go home at the safest opportunity.

Grounds Safety in Snow

In the event of heavy snowfall, the Premises Officer will try to ensure a clear pathway into school and grit the cleared area. The Premises Officer will clear the main entrance first, including the car park and therefore the back entrance may remain closed.

Snow Play

We understand the enjoyment that snow brings and believe that children should be allowed to play outside during snowy conditions, as long as school safety guidelines are followed. The Head Teacher will decide whether to allow the children to play outside during snowy weather and will arrange for extra supervision in the playgrounds where necessary. During snow play, we will allow the children to throw snowballs but **they must not throw them at other pupils or members of staff**. Children must not throw ice balls and must not make 'slides' in the snow or ice on the playground. So that they can safely enjoy snow play, children must be dressed warmly. Please send your child to school with warm, waterproof clothing and Wellington boots. Please clearly mark your child's name on all boots (as with all clothing etc brought into school). Your child's class teacher will show the children where to keep their boots during the school day.

Planning Ahead

Please have the school phone number with you at all times.