



# Parkside Community Foundation Primary School

## Severe Snow/Ice Plan for Parents and Families

Dear Parents/Carers,

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.

The Department for Education emphasises that schools should, wherever possible, remain 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. Parkside Community Foundation Primary School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter and we will notify all parents that the school remains open via the MCAS parent app. If the school remains open, there is a broad expectation that pupils will attend school. We understand that certain families may face particular difficulties due to their location or circumstances. In such cases, please inform the school using the normal absence procedures.

### ***How will we let you me know if the school is closed?***

Unfortunately if we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, Mr Williams, the Executive Headteacher, may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made, we will notify parents via the MCAS parent app, the school website and the **Kent Closures website**: <http://www.kentclosures.co.uk/>. 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.

The screenshot shows the Kent County Council website's 'Kent Closures' section. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Kent County Council' and a search bar. Below this, the 'Kent Closures' heading is followed by a search bar and a 'Narrow down your results' button. There are also buttons for 'Register for alerts', 'Alerts login', 'KCC admin login', and 'Education service login'. The footer contains links for 'Contact us', 'About the website', 'Site map', 'Feedback on the website', and 'Privacy statement', along with the Kent County Council logo.

Parents can also listen to KMFM, BBC Radio Kent or Heart FM to hear if the school has closed.

### **Educational Provision During Closure**

Due to the often short notice of weather-related closures, we are not always able to provide a full remote learning programme. However, pupils are encouraged to continue their learning at home through:

- Daily reading
- Online learning platforms such as BBC Bitesize, Times Table Rock Stars and Spelling Shed

Where advance notice of a closure is possible, teachers will aim to provide additional optional work for families who wish to engage in further learning at home.

### **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 can you provide a packed lunch from home in case school meals cannot be provided.
- Don't forget suitable warm clothing including gloves; hats; scarves; wellington boots etc. or even a change of clothing.
- If you are a working parent or feel that 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.

Many thanks for your support in helping Parkside Community Foundation Primary School remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Williams  
Executive Headteacher