

22 November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Winter weather and possible closure

As we enter the winter months, I am writing to remind you of the arrangements in case of severe weather. Our default position is to remain open if we possibly can, taking into account the safety of children and staff. We have our own snow clearing equipment and are fortunate enough to have a self-contained building that does not require children to go outside during the school day.

Should we have a severe snowfall we will firstly assess the site and take into account travel warnings that are issued. Whilst most children live within a short distance of the school, many staff drive up to thirty miles each morning. If we need to close all or part of the school please note the following arrangements:

1. A decision will usually be made by 6.30am and will be posted on the Academy website at www.stroodacademy.org.uk This is the most up to date and reliable source of information. There might be a full or partial closure, or a late start to allow staff to access and clear the site. The message will be updated daily.
2. We post a notice on the Kent Messenger school closure service at www.kentonline.co.uk. This may then be broadcasted, although on days with multiple school closures they usually do not provide the more detailed message.
3. We also inform Heart Radio who post details relating to closures at www.heart.co.uk
4. Please note that BBC Radio Kent have informed us that they will no longer place details of school closures on their website during severe weather conditions.
5. We will endeavour to send a notice via Parentmail. If you are not currently signed up to Parentmail, please contact the main office.
6. We will post a notice on the Strood Academy Facebook and Twitter pages.
7. If attending in severe weather children should wear outdoor shoes or boots and bring a change of footwear to wear whilst in the building.
8. The access road to our site may not be cleared by the council and this may create difficult conditions for those parents who drop their children by car.
9. If we are closed, then we will endeavour to set work on the school portal to be completed during the period of closure.

We hope we do not need to close but are aware that in recent years we have had heavy snow during the winter months.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Gunn
Principal