

11 December 2017

Dear Parents,

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 will be made to keep schools open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend. However our school 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. Abbey Primary School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting, clearing access points etc.

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

However, if we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, I may have to take the decision to close the school. (I will endeavour to make this decision by 6:30am on the day). Once this decision has been made we will notify parents via OpenCheck facility to determine whether Abbey Primary School is open or closed.

- OpenCheck for Parents: OpenCheck allows you to check the status of your children's school on any given day. This easy-to-use service presents information regarding school closures in case of emergency, severe weather or any news which may affect children's ability to attend or access the school. It also allows you to check scheduled school closures and term dates.
- The service is free to use* to both schools and parents, and can be accessed via the web or by telephone.
- OpenCheck is also available via ParentComms:Mobile as an app available for all popular smart phones, ensuring that Parents and Guardians have a choice of options on how to be kept up to date.

**Using the mobile app may incur data charges from your network provider.*

Please use the drop down lists on the left side of this page to select your child's school and see its status. You can select multiple schools.

We may need help to clear the ramp and playground of snow.

- Please can you provide a packed lunch from home in case school meals cannot be provided.
- 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.

Many thanks for your support in helping our School remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.

Thank you

Louise Tunstall
Headteacher

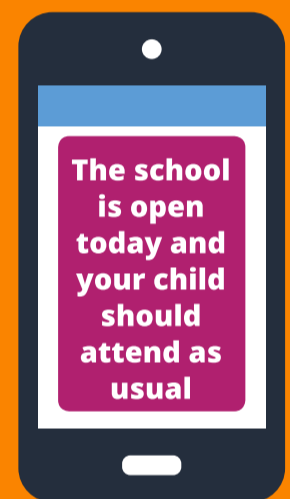
OpenCheck



EASY WAYS TO KNOW WHEN SCHOOL IS OPEN

1.

Download the ParentComms:Mobile app for FREE notifications to your Android or iOS phone



2.

**Or check the website
opencheck.atomwide.com**



3.

**Or call the number (for LGfL schools)
020 8408 7508**



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