

Grateley Primary School

Grateley, Andover, Hampshire, SP11 8JS

Telephone 01264 889240

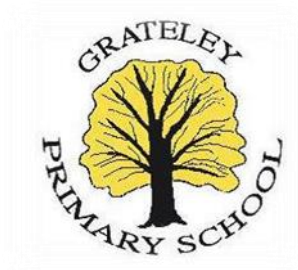
email: adminoffice@grateley.hants.sch.uk

Website: www.grateley.hants.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs R Dance

Deputy Head: Ms A. Allonby

Admin Officer: Mrs S. McNair



A School where every child becomes a lifelong learner and realises their potential.

Monday 28th January 2019

Dear Parents,

When we experience ice or snow, our first priority is to make the site safe enough for adults and children to walk to the school buildings. The snow and ice conditions can be quite localised with freezing temperatures affecting Andover and surrounding villages differently. In the event of snow/ice we will aim to clear a safe route into the school building.

The forecasts are changing constantly and it's difficult to predict when and how much snow to expect. Current forecasts suggest the heaviest snowfall will be Tuesday evening into Wednesday morning.

Whatever happens over the next few days we need children to come to school prepared for very cold weather including warm coats and hats/gloves; all labelled please!

Although we vigilantly keep up-to-date with forecasts and weather warnings, the snow and ice conditions can be quite localised with freezing temperatures affecting some areas and not others. What appears to be 'slushy' snow can be compacted very quickly on frozen ground. When we have assessed if the site can be made safe, we still have to ensure enough staff can get in to meet appropriate adult: child ratios. With staff living as far away as Portsmouth and Marlborough, journeys must be safely achievable. When we are assured we have enough staff and we can make pathways accessible, we will open.

Communication

The following is a reminder of the procedures that we take in the event of school closure:

- 1) **Hampshire County Council** website will also be updated with the latest news across the area www.hants.gov.uk/education/schoolclosures
- 2) **Website:** Where possible, we will add messages on our school website updating everyone.
- 3) **SMS text message:** We will send out a text message. Obviously if the snow is widespread there are many thousands of schools using the same network so it can take longer than usual for messages to get through. If you have not registered for this service, but would like to do so then please contact the office.
- 4) **The Breeze Andover** (who broadcast on 106.4 FM) and **Spire FM** will add to their website a list of schools that are closed (or partially closed.) They do this very quickly and so it is the best way to check if we are closed. Their website is www.thebreeze.com - you can then choose 'Andover'.

We may decide to have a staggered opening with pupils being allowed to arrive anytime up to 10am. This allows those from further away to get here safely but also spreads the amount of traffic in and around the site. We will always try to take a decision as early as possible and would hope to inform you by 7:30 in the morning, if we are forced to close.

We will do everything we can to remain open, closing a school is never a decision taken lightly.

Kindest regards

Rachel Dance
(Head teacher)