

MMN/KCR

7th January 2010

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

I would like to begin by offering my sincere thanks to pupils, colleagues and parents for the understanding that they have shown in coping with the severe weather conditions that we have experienced over the last few days.

You will be aware that we did have to close the school on Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th January and I know that this will have inconvenienced some people. It was not a decision that we took lightly, but following careful consideration it appeared the only sensible thing to do. We communicated to parents via local radio stations (Dearne FM, Radio Sheffield and Hallam FM) as well as using a new text messaging system that we have put in place. This has been introduced on a phased basis and will obviously only work if we have the correct contact details for parents and carers.

The severe weather is forecast to stay with us for the next two weeks at least and so it would seem appropriate that I clarify the best communication routes, if we do have to make decisions quickly. The easiest way to establish whether the school is open is to log on to our website www.kingstoneschool.co.uk which will be updated before 7.00 am. A message will be logged at the very top of the front page if the school is going to close. For those families that do not have internet access, the school phone system will also carry a message informing parents of the current situation. Receptionists will be operational from 8.00 am if the school is open.

We will try to keep the school open whenever it's safe to do so. However, conditions underfoot are likely to be far from ideal and it would be appropriate for pupils to wear boots or sturdy trainers as well as warm weather proof jackets. It would be worth considering bringing a spare pair of shoes to change into rather than have cold wet feet all day!

It's been a long time since we've had a "proper winter" and we are determined that we should adapt and ensure that it doesn't mean that the education of the children and families that we work with comes to a halt.

I would like to extend my thanks once again to everyone for their support during this challenging period. We will get through it (indeed, dare I say enjoy the conditions) if we are able to behave sensibly, safely and keep perspective.

With very best wishes,

Matthew Milburn
Headteacher