



Dear Parents and Guardians

Happy New Year! As it's January we thought we ought to remind you all of our snow drill. It's apparently going to get very cold at the weekend with potential snow, but no doubt it will just be grey and drizzly here. We will always try to stay open, we rarely get a heavy enough fall to make travel too dangerous/impossible. However, sometimes we have to make the call to close the school on the information we have and the forecasts at 7 am and as closing the school after we have opened (see below) is really difficult we sometimes have to err on the side of caution. We have also finalised our term dates for next academic year, we know some of you are planning your summer holidays!

Ruth French and Andy Matthews (Co-headteachers)

Snow Drill for snow in the mornings.

- Arrange possible emergency child-care if the forecast looks grim the evening before.
- In the mornings listen to Radio Cambridgeshire to see if the school is closed. It does take a while for us to get through to the radio station though so do use the other options below....
- We will tweet on Twitter, you can follow us at **@HardwickHead** (you need to put in the capital letters). Twitter is free, parentline costs you quite a bit, so signing up to Twitter if you haven't already done so might be a good idea! Many families have now done so. This is the quickest of all the options we have (as long as we have an internet connection!) so is probably the best thing to use.
- OR Check the school website – www.hardwickprimary.co.uk - again, this takes us a little while to update, so check after 8.
- OR phone Parent line on 08447 707576, school code 47546. We will put a message on there as soon as we have made a decision when we see what the weather is like in the morning. Please don't try to phone the line before 8.00, as it is unlikely we'll be putting on a message before then as it does take us a while to find out both local conditions and also how many staff are able to get into school, and we have to bear in mind how the weather conditions might change during the day from the morning forecasts.
- As a very last resort, phone the school offices, but please use one of the other options above if you can. Pass the message on to anyone you know who might not be able to access the options above! If none of the options above say we are closed, we aren't!

Heavy snow during the school day.

This is always a bit of headache! We not only have to make sure we can get all the children home, we also have to make sure everyone else isn't stuck at school all night too. If you see it's absolutely chucking it down and it looks like persisting for several hours and you'd just rather come and pick up your child, you can do so, however, it might not settle or last too long, so don't panic at the first sight of a bit of heavy snow. However if you live in Cambourne and your children attend the Hardwick Campus or you live in another village and aren't within walking distance of either site it might be wise! Please come to the school offices.

If we do decide to completely close the school we will put that information out on all the means of communication above. If possible we will always try and keep open until lunchtime, otherwise all the school dinners go to waste! If you are going to pick up someone else's child as well as your own can you please also get them to phone us to confirm this? We can't let children disappear with someone else without permission. We also attempt to rearrange the Hardwick/Cambourne bus and taxi runs earlier, but again, this is really difficult and we need to contact everyone to let them know the children will be dropped off earlier.

School term dates 2017/2018

Autumn Term 2017

Training days: Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th September (school closed)

Begins: Wednesday 6th September

Half term: 23rd October to 27th October 2017

Training day: 30th October (school closed)

Ends Tuesday 19th December

Spring term 2018

Training day: Wednesday 3rd January (school closed)

Begins: Thursday 4th January

Half term: 12th February to 16th February 2018

Ends: Thursday 29th March 2018

Summer term 2018

Begins: Monday 16th April

May Day: 7th May 2018

Training day: Friday 25th May

Half term: 28th May to 1st June 2018

Ends: Tuesday 24th July 2018

Every Meal Counts!

Every term we have to send school data to the government. Next **Thursday 19th January** is our next Census day and we need every child who is eligible for Free School Meals (so every one in Reception and Years 1 and 2, and all those others who are also eligible.) to have a school dinner! Though they are called "free" school meals, they aren't, we have to pay for them as a school, and the funding we get to help us do this is generated from the take up on Census days. Therefore the more children that have a school dinner on that day the more we get to help us subsidise them for the rest of the year. Thank you for your help in this!