



January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

During the winter months there are occasions when we can experience adverse weather conditions. It is always very difficult when we have snow and ice to determine how this will affect travel, we would ask that you follow the policy below if we experience any bad weather over the winter months.

If at all possible the school will remain open and staff will be here as normal. We are quite a large school and a large proportion of staff do not live locally and therefore may find it difficult to get to school if there is a heavy snowfall or if the road conditions are dangerous. In these circumstances it may be necessary to close the school.

If after taking local advice it is decided to close the school this will be announced on the Bedford Borough Council website www.bedford.gov.uk/schoolclosures.

Information will be placed on the school website www.markrutherford.beds.sch.uk and on the school Facebook and Twitter. Whenever possible this will be before 7:30am. A text and or email will also be sent to advise parents/carers of a late start or school closure.

We will contact parents/carers should School Transport advise of any changes to the bus services.

The Policy at Mark Rutherford School for adverse weather conditions is that:

At the start of the school day

Wherever possible the school will remain open, however due to road conditions some staff may be late arriving and the start of the school day could be affected. Should you be informed that we will be having a late start to the school day we ask that students arrive for 10am. Please note school transport will not offer a later service and students will need find an alternative way to school.

During the school day

Once the decision has been made to open the school it will not close during the day. If the weather becomes severe during the day then parents may contact the school if they feel that they would like to collect their child early for safety reasons (i.e. travelling/walking long distances or collecting other children from local schools).

To ensure you receive up to date information from the school we strongly advise you to make sure that your email address and mobile number are correct as this is how we would communicate with you.

Gritting policy

The caretakers will do their best to salt those parts of our paths that are close to the buildings and we know are likely to be slippery. We cannot salt the playgrounds or car parks. We would therefore recommend that staff, parents and students treat all path and playground areas as potential slip hazards and take appropriate precautions in cold weather.

Yours faithfully

Mr R Millard
Headteacher