IDE HILL CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
Ide Hill, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 6JT
Tel: 01732 750389 Email: office@ide-hill.kent.sch.uk
Website: www.idehill.eschools.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Severe Snow/Ice Plan for Parents and Families

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 must be made to keep schools open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend. However, schools 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. Ide Hill Primary School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting pathways, the playgrounds and clearing access points etc. and staff will always endeavor to travel to school where it is not dangerous to do so.

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

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, Miss Johnson may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made we will notify parents via the Kent Closures website. To determine whether Ide Hill Primary School is open or closed please visit www.kentclosures.co.uk. Search for the school in the search box. The Kent Closures website may also be used to find out if other services in Kent are open or closed, such as nurseries, children's centres and libraries. We also recommend parents sign up for Email alerts on the Kent Closures website. This service will send an email alert to let parents know if **Ide Hill Primary School** is closed. Local radio will sometimes provide information of school closures.

In addition, a message will be placed on the Home Page of the Ide Hill Primary School website at https://idehill.eschools.co.uk/website.

How will we let you know if the school needs to be closed after the children have arrived due to worsening conditions?

In the event that the weather turns bad during the school day, parents will be emailed and a message will be placed on the school website. Additionally, we will ask the PTA representatives to use the class WhatsApp groups to cascade the information.

What can you do to help?

- Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/winter for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.
- Check with the school to see whether you need to 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 Ide Hill Primary School remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.

Yours sincerely,

Jeanine Johnson

Jeanine Johnson
Headteacher
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