

February 2024

Dear High Storrs families,

Some reflections on the recent bad weather and a reminder of our adverse weather procedure

Every year (in autumn) we write to families to remind them about bad weather and possible responses we might take as a school. The letter stays on our website and can be found here

<https://highstorrs.co.uk/news-and-events/letters>

The 'no release list'

Every year parents and carers ask us to add their child's name to our 'no release list'. This is a (small) list of children who will not be released with all students if we must close the school early. Instead, these children are supported by pastoral teams who contact home to plan with their families about what to do next (*for example parents will come, often on foot, to collect or meet their child OR agree to the child walking to a friend's or relative's house*). **If you would like your child to be added to this list for the rest of the 23/24 school year, please do email Attendance@highstorrs-mlt.co.uk by 1/3/24.**

Planning as a family when bad weather is forecast

If we do have to close the school early, all staff share the same message with their classes before they let them go. This includes a check that all students in the class feel confident making their way home and have all they need (e.g. *house keys*). Any child who has any worries is then looked after by the pastoral team and school leaders. On February 8th this included looking at maps to help them plan their walk, contacting parents or finding a friend or member of staff going the same way.

However, please do also have these conversations at home when you know the forecast is looking bad (rain, snow, ice, flooding etc). It would be useful to talk to your child about a 'snow buddy' who they could make their way home with or even whose house they could go to. This is particularly important for children who catch the bus. If the buses stop running (or end up in grid locked traffic) your child will need to know how to make their way home on foot or have somewhere they can safely go to wait.

Looking after children in school

We are fortunate that a small number of colleagues live close to the school and can get home on foot if the weather is bad. However, several key pastoral staff and our premises staff (who lock the school up) do not. To ensure staff safety on days when we must close because of bad weather we cannot keep the school open later than 2.55pm (*or in some cases no more than an hour or two after we close*). This is why it is so important that children have a 'plan B' (e.g. a snow buddy) that you have talked about with them, and they are comfortable with.

Please ensure we have your most up-to-date contact details

We email and text all families if we need to close the school. On 8th February we had some problems with our texting service (probably because every school in the city was closing and everyone was trying to use it). However, the email message got through straight away. So please do make sure we have your most up-to-date email address on our system. Please contact hssenquiries@highstorrs-mlt.co.uk if you have changed your email address.

We also noticed that several text messages were not delivered as families had changed their contact details. Please contact hssenquiries@highstorrs-mlt.co.uk if you have changed your mobile phone number.

Here's hoping for a half term of uneventful weather!

Best wishes,
High Storrs School