

Newchurch Community Primary School
Glebeland
Culcheth
Warrington
WA3 4DX



Telephone: 01925 763427
Fax: 01925 766045
www.newchurchprimary.co.uk
Email: newchurch_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk

Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

9th January 2025

Dear parent/carer,

Firstly, thank you so much for your continued support in ensuring high attendance, which has been excellent despite the weather. As some schools in Warrington have taken the decision to close, we did receive a small number of queries this morning about whether the school was open, so we thought it would be helpful to clarify our approach to school closures, particularly in adverse weather conditions.

At Newchurch, we are committed to keeping the school open if it is safe to do so and take the decision to close very seriously. Whilst our primary concern is the safety of everyone in our community, we also recognise the impact closures can have on the children's education and the challenges they pose for working parents.

We are fortunate to have effective systems in place which enable us to keep the school open even in poor weather conditions. These resources, combined with the dedication and flexibility of our staff, help us manage most challenges.

We are constantly monitoring the weather forecast and receive regular updates from the local authority with regards to the weather based on information from the MET office in order for us to prepare the site for the following day. Early each morning, we endeavour to clear snow and add grit, whilst evaluating the safety of the children when on site. Play equipment and the playground will be evaluated and decisions made following observation and assessment.

If, despite our preparations, circumstances force us to close, you will be notified by 8:00 am at the latest via text. If you have not received a closure notification by this time, the school will remain open.

Whilst we do everything we can to keep the school open, we trust you to assess your local conditions and make the best decision for your family. Some families travel from further afield which have different challenges. Your judgement as responsible adults about whether it is safe to travel to school is paramount.



With the recent changes to the attendance policy, there are probably some concerns with regards to not sending children into school, which were linked to if their absence would be authorised or not. The question about attendance being authorised or not, should not play a factor in your evaluation as to whether it is safe to travel to school or not. It is either safe to do so or it is not.

If the school does not open or we think travel conditions will affect a significant number of children's attendance, we will offer remote education, but where the vast majority of pupils are able to attend the school which is open, it is not practical to provide remote alongside face to face learning.

Although the school is working on punctuality, we recognise that it is about getting to school safely in these weather conditions, so there is some flexibility in this so please take your time. We ask that you just let us know that you are on your way.

As of now, we expect to be open again tomorrow so unless you hear otherwise by 8:00 am, please assume the school is open, and we look forward to another productive day of learning.

As always, we thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Kindest regards,

Jayne Narraway

Headteacher



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