

NAZEING PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Hyde Mead
Nazeing
Essex EN9 2HS**

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Dear Parents/Carers

I write to inform you of the implications to school in the event of severe weather.

There may be days when severe weather conditions require that those responsible for running schools will have no option but to close the school or to instigate a variation to the normal start and end of the school day.

Safety is of paramount importance and I recognise that any closure can cause child care issues and as Headteacher I will have taken into consideration all of the following key factors:

- Availability of staff - will there be sufficient teaching and non teaching staff able to get into school and ensure that pupils are properly supervised and safeguarded? Are those able to get to school likely to be able to arrive on time or will they be delayed by problems with public transport or accessing major roads from their homes. Similarly with support staff, Heads will need to be confident that they have a paediatric first aider on site for the youngest children and emergency first aiders for the rest of the school, that the kitchen staff will be able to arrive in time to carry out their duties and so on.
- Condition of paths and access routes in and around the school – is there any risk of slipping and injury to pupils who make their own way to school and are therefore unsupervised?
- Deterioration of the weather during the day - if the weather is predicted to deteriorate, will the school be able to ensure that all pupils and staff will be able to return home safely? Will the transport for pupils who travel on the school bus or parents and carers who live away from the locality of the school actually be able to return and collect the children at the end of the day?
- Catering supplies - will deliveries of food supplies be able to get through to enable the cook to provide a meal?
- Is it possible to open the school for a shortened day – by having a slightly later start will this enable more staff to get in safely and ensure the correct ratio of adults to pupils? By starting later in the morning will this reduce the risk to all who are trying to travel in the severe weather by delaying the school run?



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- How reliable has the weather forecast been – has it been accurate or is there a high possibility that in fact the severe weather warnings may come to nothing? Or do the actual conditions in the area of the school indicate that the weather is more severe than had been indicated?

In the event of a school closure, we will text parents as early as possible in the morning using the Teachers2Parents texting system and we would encourage you to use the links on our school website where children can access appropriate educational games. In addition to this, the children can complete reading, spelling and times tables activities.

When snow is on the ground, I am very happy for children to wear appropriate warm clothing and footwear (not necessarily school uniform).

I very much hope that severe weather will not prove disruptive this year. However, just in case, please can you keep a copy of this letter to hand. A copy will also be placed on the school website.

Yours sincerely

J E Pomfret

Jane Pomfret
Headteacher



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