

Deal Parochial Church of England (Aided) Primary School

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Thursday 31st January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Winter 2019 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. **Deal Parochial School** will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting pathways, clearing access points etc.

Non attendance may lead to an unauthorised absence unless you phone the school to let the office staff know the reason for absence.

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

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, Ms Brown may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made we will notify parents/carers in the first instance via our Parentmail texting service. Please make sure you are signed up for this and your mobile numbers are correct. If you are not signed up to Parentmail and need some information about this service please contact the school office. You may also find updated weather messages on our School website www.deal-parochial.kent.sch.uk.

There will also be information via the Kent Closures website. To determine whether Deal Parochial School is open or closed please visit www.kentclosures.co.uk. Search for the school in the search box. The Kent Closures website can 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 our school is closed. **Please see registration information attached.** Parents can also listen to KMFm, BBC Radio Kent or Heart FM to hear if the school has closed.

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.
- Please approach the school from the main entrance and walk on the cleared pathway.
- If our school kitchen is closed we will advise parents again by Parentmail text, and our school web site, www.deal-parochial.kent.sch.uk. In this instance, please can you provide a packed lunch from home.
- 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 to keep our school open during periods of severe snow/ice.

Yours sincerely,

Justine Brown - Head teacher

