



January 2019

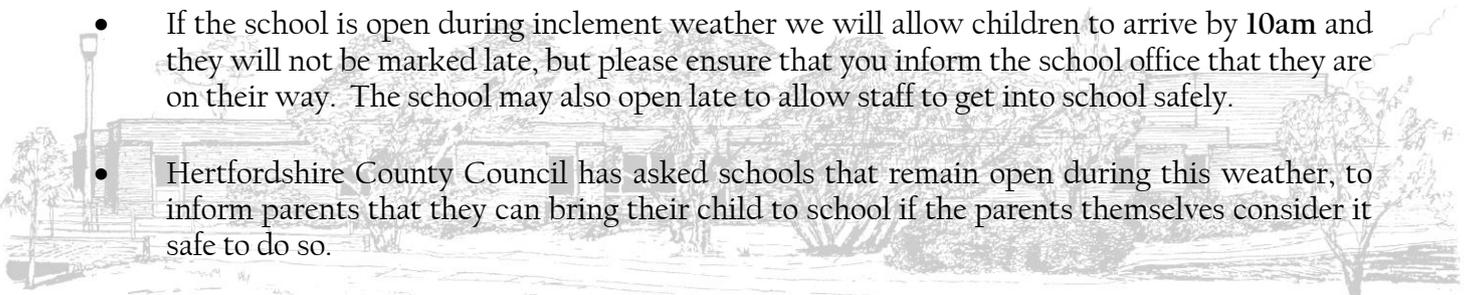
Dear Parents

## In the Event of Bad Weather

I thought it would be helpful to highlight what we do at Pixmore for our new families and as a reminder for all others. Please be assured that the school will always try to remain open if there is sufficient staff to teach your child and it is safe for children to be on the school site. Please find attached a handy card to stick on your fridge or pin board, on the reverse are our term dates.

I would like to let you know how we will manage the situation in school if severe weather conditions occur.

- Hillshott and Pixmore heads will liaise over the decision to close the schools. Both schools will contact parents via Parentmail, so please ensure that you keep the school office informed of any changes to mobile numbers and ensure you update your ParentMail account.
- You are now able to sign up to receive messages by SMS and email from the Schools Closure Notification System at Hertfordshire County Council by following the link: [member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489](http://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489). This link will direct you to the “Sign Up” page where you should click on the “sign up” button located at the top right hand side of the page on the grey strip and from there follow the instructions. It should take no more than 5 minutes to register and you can edit your information at any time should you change your mobile number or email address. Each contact within the system can have 2 devices added for each communication type if they wish to – this means that in addition to adding your own mobile number and email address, you could include the mobile number and email address of a partner or a grandparent in your registration process. They too would then receive any messages in relation to the school’s closure. Alternatively, interested parties could register themselves separately. If a parent / guardian has children at more than one school you can register for those schools too in a single registration process by selecting all schools you have children at. Once signed up you will receive messages relating to the status of your child’s school. A message will also be read out on to 3 Counties Radio and Heart FM. There will also be a message on the school office answer-phone and on our website [www.pixmore.herts.sch.uk](http://www.pixmore.herts.sch.uk) **ONLY IF WE ARE CLOSED**.
- If the school is open during inclement weather we will allow children to arrive by **10am** and they will not be marked late, but please ensure that you inform the school office that they are on their way. The school may also open late to allow staff to get into school safely.
- Hertfordshire County Council has asked schools that remain open during this weather, to inform parents that they can bring their child to school if the parents themselves consider it safe to do so.
- If you do not bring your child to school because you think it is **unsafe** for them you must let the school office know by **10am** that this is the case, so we can mark them absent accordingly. If we do not hear from you, your child will be marked as an unauthorised absence.



- School will finish at the normal time unless the weather worsens and then the school will close earlier. Again we will liaise with Hillshott on this decision to help parents.
- Children will be kept in school until they are collected on days when we need to close early due to poor weather or incident. No child will be allowed to walk home alone unless parents contact the office and let us know that they can walk home and that someone will be at home or can meet them half way.
- It would be helpful if you could send your child with a spare pair of socks if they walk to school and please make sure that they have indoor shoes to change into. Children will be not be allowed out to play during the school day but will be given the opportunity at the end of the day if they have appropriate clothing (wellies/snow boots, hats, gloves, waterproof warm coat). We do not have the cloakroom space to accommodate wet coats during the school day.
- You will be aware that Rushby Mead is not usually gritted. The school has only got the people power to clear and grit access within the school boundary. ***If you can spare some time in the mornings when snow has fallen, to help Mr Anderson clear the school and the area outside school that would be very helpful. Please inform the school office if you are able to help. Thank you.***
- During icy or inclement weather it would be advisable for parents to park their cars on Pixmore Avenue or Norton Way South, as these roads are generally clear and it reduces the risk of accidents on Rushby Mead.
- Teachers will try to cover the normal lessons but please appreciate that if there is a high number of pupil absences (more than 6) in the class then teachers will need to alter their plans so that absent pupils do not miss out on their learning. If teachers are unable to get in we may also have to change the teaching arrangements for your child and mix classes up. This would also be the case if there were a high number of absentees in the class due to illness.

I know that many of you are working parents (like myself!) and finding alternative childcare if we are closed is difficult but please be assured I will try to keep the school open if it is safe to do so.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Alex Evans  
Headteacher

