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Dear Parents

November 2021

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.

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.
- Parents can sign up for notifications from the School Notification System at member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489 to receive early SMS and email notices.
- A message will also be read out on to 3 Counties Radio and Heart FM.
- A ParentMail text message will be sent by 7.30am if the school is closed – make sure your mobile numbers are kept up to date on ParentMail.
- There will be a message on the school website **ONLY if the school is closed**: www.pixmore.herts.sch.uk
- There will also be a message on the school answer phone **ONLY if the school is CLOSED**.
- 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 and an SMS message will be sent.
- 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 school office to 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 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.
- You will be aware that Rushby Mead is not usually gritted. ***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 it would be very helpful. Please inform the school office if you are able to help.***
- 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.

I know that many of you are working parents (like myself!) and finding alternative childcare, if we are closed it might be 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