

Dear Parents/ Guardians / Carers,

## **Snow Warnings: what school does:**

- \* The school's priority is our young people's safety.
- \* All decisions are taken around this central concern.
- \* We monitor the weather forecast closely and take advice from many agencies.

During the winter, when bad weather can be expected, our first priority is to ensure that the school site is safe and the surrounding roads are passable. The paths are cleared and gritted, and for safety reasons we do not allow any form of snowballing.

If conditions deteriorate during the school day, or bad weather is forecast when pupils would be going home, I may inform parents via the school website, twitter account or Parentmail as noted below, that they can collect their child from school early. Extra curricular activities may also be cancelled when the weather is poor.

The actual timing depends on weather reports. Exceptionally, I may have to decide in advance to close the school and would always try to use the best possible advice available.

Closing the school due to adverse weather is always a difficult decision to make and is only made in extreme circumstances based on the following:

- There are insufficient staff in school because of unexpected snow/weather conditions.
- The weather makes it too dangerous for staff and children to travel to school.
- The school grounds are too dangerous.
- The heating/hot water is not working.
- School dinners are not available due to any of the above reasons.

A decision to close the school is made as soon as I am in receipt of all necessary information which then allows/enables me to make an informed and considered decision.

## **Communication with parents:**

I am sure that you will appreciate that I cannot contact all parents individually. Notices of early closure are posted immediately on the school website ([www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk](http://www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk)) and sent as a message on twitter. We also send a message out on Parentmail, although in high levels of demand this can often be slow. We also inform the Local Authority who update their website and we also inform local media including local radio stations  
<http://apps1.oldham.gov.uk/SchoolClosures/Schools.aspx>)

## **IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE PLEASE!**

Please do not rely on waiting for a Parentmail message as the only means of communication, please check all other sources including the school website. You can also check by telephoning school but this will only be available AFTER 8am when a member of staff is able to answer calls. Please do not reply to any text message as this congests the school phone lines. I hope we will have a pleasant, mild winter, but as always we should be prepared and we are.

Yours sincerely

P A Hartley

Mrs P A Hartley  
Headteacher