



Crooks Barn Primary School Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head Teacher. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
2. Conditions on site are dangerous
3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

If the school is to close:

1. The Local Authority procedure will be followed and once this is logged and the decision has been made to close this information will be displayed to the public via the school website: <http://www.crooksbarprimary.co.uk/>

We aim to post details by 8am on the day in question.

The media (BBC Radio Tees 95FM, TFM 96.6 FM) will then broadcast details. Details will also be available on www.tfmradio.com and www.bbc.co.uk/tees

2. Parents who have opted into the Schoolscom scheme will be alerted to the closure using the Text/email service activated once the closure has been logged with the Local Authority.

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents. However, parents are encouraged to check the website, ring school or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact the school to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed. The school recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of children can get into school. In such instances, parents should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the school has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each case so as to be able to formally authorise the absence to the Local Authority. Parents acting on the assumption that the school would be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevents the child coming into school risks their child being registered as an un-authorised absence.

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised

absence. (Register code 'Y' meaning exceptional circumstances).
In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted by phone either at home or work and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

PLEASE NOTE WITHOUT DIRECT PARENTAL PERMISSION WE CANNOT ALLOW CHILDREN TO LEAVE WITH OTHER ADULTS.

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this in assembly. Before and after school opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground.

Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day.

During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds to parents and children at the beginning and end of school, and if the Head Teacher decides it necessary, at break times as well.

In the Head Teacher's absence the Senior teacher on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.

Decisions regarding before and after school activities (eg breakfast club) will be made as early as possible to cause minimum disruption.

Updated March 2016