

Wednesday 8th January 2025

Dear families,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. Firstly, thank you so much for the support and positive comments regarding our prior closures this week; it is very much appreciated by myself and the team. Closing a school is one of the most difficult decisions to make and more so when it is for more than one day.

As you are very well aware, we find ourselves in a very unusual, extremely cold patch of wintery weather which is forecast to continue. Because the temperatures are going to be extremely cold over the next few days, I do not believe the situation will improve. Therefore, to help families as much as possible in these difficult circumstances and to overcome worry caused by not knowing what is happening, I have made the difficult decision now to close the school on **Thursday 9th and Friday 10th January**. If things considerably change, we will reassess the situation for Friday.

The school site remains extremely dangerous despite the site team and our gritting/ plough company doing the best they can. Grit is melting the ice a little which is then immediately re-freezing. We have cleared the drive and staff carpark of snow and created good paths to entrances, but what remains is lots of thick ice and lots of black ice patches. I am unsure how emergency vehicles would access our site if they were needed

I know that the surrounding pavements are untreated and extremely icy, it's almost impossible for adults to walk on, let alone adults trying to keep children safe on them. At the moment, there is nowhere for vehicles of families to stop or park safely as Haworth Road also has cleared snow, turned to ice, at the sides.

As a result, the site and surrounding areas are very unsafe.

We understand this will have an impact on families in lots of different ways and we are very sorry for the inconvenience that it will undoubtedly cause.

We will:

- Provide learning via Ping and our website
- Provide check-in phone calls from our staff to anyone who would like them
- Provide a supermarket voucher next week for children who are in receipt of free school meals (more information to follow)
- Support families who are struggling with other things e.g. keeping warm or food parcels by signposting for support to charities and warm spaces

Should anything change on Thursday that would allow us to open on Friday, we will be in touch by 6pm on Thursday evening. If you do not hear from us, we will be working with our site teams and gritting company to prepare the site for opening on Monday 13th January.

Please email office@beckfootheaton.org or phone 01274 363070 if we can help in any way.

Thank you again for your support – we know this situation isn't easy.

Zoe Mawson

Headteacher