Nether Green Junior School

Adverse Weather Guidance for Parents and Carers

At Nether Green Junior School we aim to stay open whenever it is safe to do so, even in severe weather. Keeping school open supports children's learning and helps families. This guidance explains what to expect and how you can help. It is based on our Winter Weather Safety & Gritting Policy, which is available on the school website.

Will school be open?

- As a general rule, **assume the school is open** unless you hear otherwise.
- The decision is made by the Headteacher, usually by **7:00am**, once the site has been checked.
- If the school has to close, we will let you know as early as possible by:
  - message/email
  - a notice on the school website.
- On rare occasions, we may **open later (normally 10:00am)** to allow safe travel for staff and pupils. We will let you know in advance if this is the case.

If school is closed

- Children can carry on with any homework tasks that have already been set.
- If they are able to, we hope they enjoy the snow safely.

Attendance and travel

- If school is open, **we expect all children to attend**. Every day in school counts towards their learning and progress.
- Please allow extra time for journeys and make sure your child is dressed for the weather.
- Only keep your child at home in exceptional circumstances where travel is genuinely unsafe. Sometimes **walking to school may be the safest option** if roads are hazardous.
- If your child cannot attend, please let the school office know.
- If your child travels to school on council-arranged transport and it is not running, please let the school office know.

If school closes during the day

School will very rarely close during the day. If the weather gets worse and we do need to close early:

- we will message you and ask you to **collect your child as soon as you can**
- children will only go home with a parent, carer or another adult you have authorised
- children who normally walk home on their own will only leave early if you have confirmed this with us on the day. Otherwise, they will leave at 3:35pm as usual
- children will be looked after in school until they are collected.

Playing outside in snow and ice

- Children will be able to enjoy the snow when it is safe to do so, in areas agreed by the Headteacher and with staff supervising.
- Please make sure your child comes to school with:

    - a warm coat
    - sensible footwear (boots or shoes with good grip)
    - gloves, a hat and, if possible, a change of clothes.
- For safety, children are asked not to make slides on icy ground.

Getting around the school site

- Our Building Officer grits the main routes into school before 7:00am and checks them during the day. These include the top and lower gates, the main entrance and the entrances children use.
- Please **keep to the gritted paths** and take extra care on the slopes. A map of the gritted routes is available on the school website and from the school office.
- Some areas will be coned off until they have been treated. Please do not use them.
- Please **wear suitable footwear** when on school grounds.
- Please **supervise your children before and after school** (before 8:40am and after 3:35pm) so they do not play on ungritted areas.
- Wheelchair access is via the workroom entrance, the Year 6 cloakroom or the kitchen/dining hall entrance. Anyone who feels unsafe on icy paths may use the main entrance.

Keeping in touch

- Please avoid phoning school to ask if we are open unless it is essential, as staff need the lines free for urgent matters.
- Please make sure the school office always has your **up-to-date contact details**, so you receive our messages.
- If other family members, friends or childminders collect your child, please pass on any messages from us.