



## Extreme Weather Arrangements



### **School Open**

This is where snowfall has a minor impact on travel and the school is able to function at close to normal levels.

### **School Closure**

Snow fall will in many instances result in staff and children not being able to travel to school. In this instance, we will ask that parents keep their child/ren at home

This is a last resort and only used when snow fall is quite severe.

The school may close during snow when the following factors occur

- Insufficient Staff are able travel into school for us to run a safe and proper service.
- The grounds may be unsafe for people and vehicles to use the site. Deciding to close the school is always a difficult decision and we do not make this lightly.

### **How will I know the school is open?**

There are a number of ways to check if we are open:

- Our Parent Text Service service will inform you via your mobile phone if we are intending to close.
- The school's website [www.stmarysdorchester.dorset.co.uk](http://www.stmarysdorchester.dorset.co.uk) will have an update.
- The Dorset CC website [www.dorsetcc.gov.uk/](http://www.dorsetcc.gov.uk/) has a section on school closures.

### **Should I send my child to school?**

This is a judgement for individual families based upon your circumstances and the severity of the weather. You will need to consider whether you can safely get your child to school and more importantly if you can safely collect your child at the end of the school day. This will very much depend on the state of roads and where you live.

If you deem the conditions to be unsafe please inform us and we will view this as an authorised absence. The emergency services always define this as- making essential journeys only.

### **When it becomes necessary to close school during a working day**

In the event that it becomes necessary to close the school during a working day due to adverse or worsening weather conditions we will contact parents via Parents Text Service/ emergency contact numbers. A restricted service will be maintained until all children have been collected but this will not necessarily follow the normal curriculum or procedures. The school will use those teachers and other staff, who are able to remain at school to supervise the children and provide a range of activities outside of the normal curriculum.