

Dear Parents/Carers,

With the return of cold and icy conditions this week, please take a moment to remind yourselves of our cold weather guidelines!

Please do familiarise yourself with them keep them somewhere safe to refer to as required. All action points for Families are underlined for ease of reference.

In the event of a severe weather warning:

If there is a severe weather warning by the Met. Office for this area, a decision will be made, as early as the circumstances will allow, by senior staff as to whether it is safe and viable to run Pace services or to close for a fixed period of time.

ParentMail



How to check if Pace is open:

- School is open unless you receive a message from Pace to advise otherwise.
- You will be advised of any decision to close via ParentMail at the earliest possible opportunity.
- The school status will be updated on the BucksCC website <https://closures.buckscc.gov.uk/> as detailed below, and on the school hub section of the Pace website <https://thepacecentre.org/school-hub/>.

The decision to close Pace is not taken lightly. We are very mindful of the inconvenience this can cause, and we will always attempt to open if at all possible. However, our first duty is to the safety and well-being of the children and young people, staff and other users of Pace and this must take priority when making the decision to open or close during severe weather conditions.

Factors that are taken into account by Pace when determining whether it is safe to open include:

- Safety and accessibility of each school site
- The number of staff able to attend school and the ratio of staff:children
- Met Office weather warnings for the Buckinghamshire area
- Guidance and direction from Buckinghamshire Local Education Authority

When Pace school sites are open during periods of cold and icy weather, Pace parents/Carers are asked to make a judgement themselves based on their local area and travelling conditions before sending their child to school and to telephone the reception at the appropriate site as soon as possible to inform us of any decision to keep their child at home.

This information helps enormously when decisions are being made based on staff:child ratios and manual handling requirements, so the sooner you can let us know if you are keeping your child off the better please, thank you.

In the event that heavy snow and/or icy conditions arrive outside of school hours:

The status of Pace School Services will be updated on the Bucks County Council website. Please familiarise yourself with this page and use it to check whether Pace School is open or closed.

To do so, go to <https://closures.buckscc.gov.uk/> click on 'All Education Centres', select P from the alphabet range – we have 2 entries: 'The Pace Centre' (Coventon Road site) and 'Pace Bradbury Campus' (Wendover Road site).

This online record informs Bucks transport services. Please note that it is the responsibility of Parents/Carers to inform your transport provider (if applicable) directly as soon as you are made aware of a closure.

If taxis arrive to collect your child and you are in any doubt of whether or not Pace is open – do not let them set off until you have checked your Parentmail account and the BucksCC site.

If you do not live in locally to Pace, you can check conditions for the Aylesbury area using widely available weather forecast apps/sites such as <https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather> or <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/>.

Please do not just go by the amount of snow around you as conditions can vary widely across different regions.

In the event that heavy snow and/or icy conditions arrive during school hours:

If heavy snow starts to fall during the day – Senior Staff will decide whether or not to send children home and this will be communicated via Parentmail SMS text in the first instance, and then followed up with an email or phonecall as required.

Please ensure that you keep your mobile phone available and switched on with Parentmail notifications enabled (for app users), and ensure that Pace can contact you if required. Individual difficulties will be managed as effectively as conditions allow.

Remote Learning in the event of a snow closure:

- Remote learning during a snow closure is entirely optional
- In the event of a snow related closure, a pre-prepared range of activities will be sent to school families via MSTeams. These will include a selection of activities which are fun and engaging (some involving snow!) but also practical and realistic in terms of what is able to be achieved at home (possibly with siblings to also consider!).
- Activities will be planned carefully to offer a broad range of opportunities to work on individual goals and priorities where possible, particularly those goals that lend themselves to these activities e.g. those relating to upper limb/hand function, sensory exploration/regulation, communication.
- Live lessons will not be offered on these days due to the nature of snow days being last minute and short lived and bringing with them additional pressures for staff and families alike in terms of children being home from school

Please keep these guidelines handy in case we have a sudden fall of snow.

Many thanks,



Claire Smart
Headteacher