

Margaret Roper Catholic Primary School

Russell Hill Road, Purley, Surrey CR8 2XP
Tel: 020 8660 0115 Fax: 020 8660 9656
Email: head@margaretroper.crowdon.sch.uk
Headteacher: D. J. Mooney

Deputy Head: Mrs. V O'Byrne



Wednesday 11th January 2013

Dear Parents and Carers,

Snow forecast - Potential disruption to school. - IMPORTANT INFORMATION - please read carefully

I am writing this letter in advance of forecast snow to inform you of procedures should the weather affect travel to and from school.

The current forecast identifies that it is possible we will have some snowfall on Thursday evening. This may fall during the night and could potentially affect roads. If significant snow falls there could be some disruption to travel on Friday morning, compounded by the rail strike which will place additional pressure on public transport services.

In the event of snow falling at any point in the future which could affect travel to school, the following arrangements are in place:

Mr Jones and I assess the site for access early in the morning each day. Where snow is likely I check the travel information from TFL to ascertain whether buses and trains are running. Of course right now we cannot rely on trains and some staff, like parents, will be understandably reticent to drive in very difficult road conditions. School will normally be open as long as I can ensure that sufficient staff are able to travel to school to ensure pupil safety. A decision about opening will normally be made prior to 7am, to allow parents as much time to make arrangements as possible. Please note that we will make every effort to remain open if it is possible to do so; it is only if we cannot guarantee adequate staffing or if conditions are hazardous for pupils that we will remain closed.

In the event that travel to school is disrupted, I will always post a message to all parents using ParentMail. This will be in the form of an email and also a brief text message. I will also update the school website front page with relevant information. Please check this regularly. **Parentmail and text will be our key means of communication - please ensure you have access to this!** If you have not got a valid log in, to verify your parentmail account please contact Miss Middleton immediately to organise one. You can also check the OpenCheck site at <http://opencheck.atomwide.com>

We try hard to ensure that the playground is gritted but cannot grit the whole alleyway or all paths to school. Please use great caution with your children when walking onto the school site. It is very useful if your children have wellies or additional footwear and socks so that they can change when they reach school and have warm dry feet during the school day.

Should, in the future, we have snowfall during the school day that causes concern about travel home from school, we may decide to close early or cancel clubs or activities, including after school club. Again, should this become necessary we will use Parentmail and text as our main means of communication. Pupils will



remain supervised by staff until they can be collected, but if we ask you to collect your children early we ask that you make all efforts to do so in the interests of their safety and the safety of staff.

Should the school be open, following snow, we expect you to do your best to get your children to school. Pupils who do not attend school on days when we are open will be recorded as unauthorised absences.

Of course, with any luck we might not have snow, or any snow that falls might not settle. I remain hopeful that this will be the case. However, we should be prepared for potential disruption; hope for the best and prepare for the worst.

If the cross country race on Saturday is cancelled because of the weather I will send a message via ParentMail as soon as I am informed.

I hope this information is useful to you. Please keep this letter for your reference through the winter as arrangements will be the same.

Sincerely D Mooney

