



Blewbury Endowed C of E Primary School
Westbrook Street, Blewbury, Didcot, Oxon. OX11 9QB
Telephone: (01235) 850411 office.3248@blewbury.oxon.sch.uk



Headteacher: Jo Reeder

Snow Days – Information & Procedures

At this time of year, we need to be prepared for snow and poor weather and how that may affect the operation of the school. Our number one priority is to keep school open, and the decision to close is not taken lightly, but we also must ensure the safety of all members of our school community. We are aware that the timings of decisions to close the school are critical for parents and carers. Following a heavy overnight snowfall, we always try and take the judgment on school closure as early as possible in the morning. If there is a heavy snow fall during the day we aim to give as much notice as possible for parents/carers or an alternative to pick up early.

Snowfall Overnight

School Closure

Heavy snowfall overnight may result in access to the school being restricted or may stop children, parents/carers and staff from getting to school safely. If these conditions apply, the following steps will be taken:

- The Headteacher will evaluate the prevailing conditions at the school site and in the area.
- Staff will contact the Headteacher as early as possible, but by 7:00am, to advise of their capability of getting to work safely.
- If access to the school is regarded as too dangerous or there would be too few staff to teach the children, the Headteacher and Chair of Governors will take the decision to close the school. **We aim to make this decision by 7.30am**, particularly to assist parents and carers of children attending our Breakfast Club.
- The Headteacher will register the closure of the school with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and the school will appear on a list here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/emergency-school-closures>
- School closures are also announced on BBC Radio Oxford (95.2 FM), Heart Oxfordshire (102.6 or 97.4 FM) and Hits Radio Oxfordshire (107.9 FM)
- The school will communicate what is happening to parents via the MCAS app and updates will appear on our school website www.blewbury.oxon.sch.uk/
- If possible, teachers will set home-learning activities via google classroom.

Delayed opening

If poor local road conditions result in pupils or staff taking a longer time to arrive at school, the Headteacher and Chair of Governors may decide to open the school later or extend the time for registration so that everyone can get to school safely. If the decision for opening later is agreed, following steps will be taken:

- The Headteacher will register the delayed opening of the school with Oxfordshire County Council and the school will appear on a list **including the revised opening time** here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/emergency-school-closures>
- School closures / delayed opening times are also announced on BBC Radio Oxford (95.2 FM), Heart Oxfordshire (102.6 or 97.4 FM) and Hits Radio Oxfordshire (107.9 FM)
- The school will communicate what is happening to parents via MCAS and updates will appear on our school website www.blewbury.oxon.sch.uk/



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- If during the day it is felt that the children should go home due to deteriorating conditions the school will let parents and carers know of the early closure via MCAS and request collection of the children.
- Key staff will remain on site to supervise the children with an acceptable ratio of staff to pupils until all the children are collected.
- Parents should collect their child(ren) as soon and safely as possible. (No After School Club facilities)
- If the school is not forced to close, then normal pick up and collection arrangements will apply at 3:15pm for all pupils. (No After School Club facilities)

Snowfall during the School Day

In the event of a heavy snowfall and/or significant deterioration in local conditions occurring during the school day so the return home may become unsafe, then the Headteacher may decide to close the school. The following procedures will be followed:

- The Headteacher will register the closure of the school with Oxfordshire County Council and the school will appear on a list here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/emergency-school-closures>
- School closures are also announced on BBC Radio Oxford (95.2 FM), Heart Oxfordshire (102.6 or 97.4 FM) and Hits Radio Oxfordshire (107.9 FM)
- The school will communicate what is happening to parents via MCAS and updates will appear on our school website www.blewbury.oxon.sch.uk/
- Key staff will remain on site to supervise the children with an acceptable ratio of staff to pupils until all the children are collected.
- Parents should collect their child(ren) as soon and safely as possible. (No After School Club facilities)

Failure of the school heating system

Ambient temperature at school should be comfortable for all pupils and staff. In the unlikely event of a malfunction or total failure of the heating system, the Headteacher might have to take a decision to close the school. It is understood that this is very inconvenient for everyone, but a minimum temperature is mandated by law and a decision to close the school is not taken lightly. If problems with the heating system occur, the following procedures will be followed:

- The Headteacher will register the closure of the school with Oxfordshire County Council and the school will appear on a list here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/emergency-school-closures>
- School closures are also announced on BBC Radio Oxford (95.2 FM), Heart Oxfordshire (102.6 or 97.4 FM) and Hits Radio Oxfordshire (107.9 FM)
- The school will communicate what is happening and send updates on the repairs via MCAS and on our school website www.blewbury.oxon.sch.uk/

Thank you for your consideration and please use our website, the OCC website and listen to the radio for information and updates. If you do need to contact the school, please use email as the phones may not be staffed.