THE HOLMESDALE SCHOOL
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9th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Severe Snow/Ice Plan for Parents and Families

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service.

As a fundamental principle, every effort will be made to keep our school open, even if only limited numbers of students can attend. However, we may have to close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or students to be onsite.

We recognise that it is important our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. The Holmesdale School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter.

In the event of a school closure, we will be setting work on Google Classroom to allow students to continue with their education from home.

How will we let you know if the school is closed?

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, I may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made, we will notify parents via the Kent Closures website. To determine whether The Holmesdale School is open or closed please visit www.kentclosures.co.uk and search for the school in the search box. The Kent Closures website can also be used to find out if other services in Kent are open or closed, such as nurseries, children's centres and libraries. The school will also send a text to let parents know if The Holmesdale School is closed. Local radio will sometimes provide information of school closures.

What can you do to help?

- Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/winter for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.
- Please provide a packed lunch from home in case school meals cannot be provided.
- Don't forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing.
- Please do not telephone the school to ask what is happening, or expect students to phone you from school, we will send updates to parents by text and update our website/Facebook page
- If the weather deteriorates rapidly, we may have to close early and release students.
- If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.

Many thanks for your support in helping The Holmesdale School remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.

Yours faithfully

Mr G Prebble
Headteacher