



Snow and Bad Weather Policy



“Schools should, wherever possible, stay open in severe weather. They play a key role in their communities and by staying open help both their pupils and parents.”
Department for Education

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 must be made to keep schools open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend. However schools may close due to ‘unavoidable’ circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite.

We recognise that it is important that our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. Leadgate Primary School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by e.g. gritting pathways, clearing access points and gateways, salt school yard and high traffic routes around the school, place staff outside where appropriate.

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

However, if we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, the head teacher may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made we will notify parents via the Durham Closures website. To determine whether Leadgate Primary School is open or closed please visit :

www.durham.gov.uk/schoolclosures

Search for the school in the search box. The Durham Closures website can also be used to find out if other services in Durham are open or closed, such as nurseries, children’s centres and libraries.

We also recommend parents maintain up to date emergency contact details to receive notification by SMS text alerts with the school. This service will send an SMS alert to let parents know if Leadgate Primary is closed Parents can also listen to local radio stations to hear if the school has closed.

Local radio Stations which will announce School closure will be :

BBC Newcastle
Star Radio
Capital FM
Metro Radio

What can you do to help?

- Please visit www.durham.gov.uk/winterroads for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Durham so you can plan your journey.
- Please provide your child with appropriate clothing and footwear. Don’t forget suitable warm clothing such as – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing.
- Please approach the school using the main gates.

- 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 Leadgate Primary School remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.