

Barnes Farm Junior School

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Snow Closures



16 December 2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

Although not wishing to tempt fate, I wanted to update everyone on the recent changes to emergency school closures. Essex County Council will now display information about emergency closures on their web site. This, alongside the school systems, **replaces alerts by local radio stations**. This information is on our website under 'School Info', 'School Closure'.

The decision to close the school due to snow is never easy and can lead to frustration and inconvenience. This is especially true when you live locally and are able to walk with your child into school.

The decision to close the school largely rests on the ability to safely get sufficient teachers into school before 8:00am. Please be aware that the vast majority of teaching staff do not live in the surrounding area and have to depend upon roads being cleared enough to allow safe passage in the early morning.

In the event that the school cannot be opened, the decision to close the school will be shared with you in the following ways and as quickly as possible:

- The school website.
- Twitter (@barnesfarmjnr)
- School Texting Service
- Essex Emergency School Closure page.

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx>

If the school is opened, please be aware that all staff may not be present and nor would we expect all the children from surrounding areas to necessarily be able to make their way into school safely. I would also like everyone to know that if the occasion arises, school registration would stay open until 10:00am to enable you to slowly and safely make your way into school and prevent potentially dangerous congestion outside the school in icy conditions.

On snowy days, the children will need wellies/boots and suitable outdoor clothes to enable them to go out and play on the field. If they are not prepared, including a change of shoes, they will be unable to go outside.

Hopefully, there will be no need to close the school this winter as this has not happened for many years. But with the new arrangements it was important to let everyone know beforehand.

Yours sincerely,

Ross McTaggart

Headteacher