

# Chevening (St Botolph's) C.E. (VA) Primary School

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*Head Teacher*

Miss Karen Minnis

08.01.25

Dear Parents and Carers,

Recent weather events across Britain have impacted schools and this is the season where further potential disruption is more likely. The information below and in the attached documents about Remote Learning should provide reminders/guidance about how Chevening manages the challenges that winter can bring. Please take time to read and action the information – although we hope that any disruption is very short-lived and minor!

## ***Severe Weather Plan for Parents and Families***

Every winter brings the possibility of extreme bad weather, which can cause widespread and prolonged disruption for schools, parents' work and the services we all rely on.

Chevening fully subscribes to Kent County Council's principle that every effort must be made to keep schools open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend, or the school day is adapted. However, schools may close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite. Although a handful of staff live closer to the school, the majority live at a distance and may experience difficulty in accessing safe routes to school.

We recognise that it is important our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn, so we make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice in winter by keeping a watchful eye on weather forecasts, maintaining stocks of grit and clearing main pedestrian access routes to Chevening Nursery, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 buildings.

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

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, the Governors and SLT may have to take the decision to change the timings of the school day, restrict attendance or close the school. Once this decision has been made we will notify parents via the **Kent Closures website, school email and the school website.**

*Please do **not** phone the school to enquire individually, as this takes too long!*

### **Using Kent Closures website:**

Please visit [www.kentclosures.co.uk](http://www.kentclosures.co.uk) to determine whether Chevening is open, closed or only offering limited places or times.

Search for the school in the search box.

The Kent Closures website may also be used to find out if other services in Kent are open or closed, such as nurseries, children's centres and libraries. We recommend Chevening parents/carers sign up for **Email alerts** on the Kent Closures website. This service will send an email alert to let parents know if Chevening is closed. Local radio will sometimes provide information of school closures.



### **What can you do to help?**

- Please visit [www.kent.gov.uk/winter](http://www.kent.gov.uk/winter) for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.
- Please approach the school from **Chevening Road with caution and carefully supervise children on slippery paths/playground**. In extreme weather, Mr Eady may not be able to clear the entire playground, but will keep walking paths to all buildings clear.
- Please be patient; we are a small staff team and managing multiple requests and systems may mean that our responses might be slower than usual.
- Be ready to provide a packed lunch from home for your child, in case school meals cannot be provided.
- Remember suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing. *Please label everything clearly, so staff can help your child identify their own clothing.*
- If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with an unexpected earlier pick up, please could you put a **back-up plan** in place with another family member or trusted adult **and** inform the School Office by email. This will allow staff to ensure all children are safely collected by authorised adults and will enable the staff team to leave earlier for their own safety if weather dictates.

Other sources of help and information:

Class teachers will use the class page on the [school website](#) and email to provide information about learning for your child. If the school is closed for more than one day, then Remote Learning via Teams may be offered. Please see the separate documents about Remote Learning for further information.

### **Cold Weather Advice**

Kent County Council offers general advice and cold weather support, which may be useful when planning journeys to school. You can find this information here: [Keep warm this winter - Kent County Council](#).

Thank you for your support in ensuring that we are all well-prepared and safe during the winter season.

With warm wishes on a cold day,



Karen Minnis  
Headteacher

