



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Thursday 2nd November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: School Arrangements for Friday 3rd November

I am writing to update parents regarding our plans for tomorrow and how parents will be informed should there be a need for school closure.

Firstly, can I begin by thanking everyone for a massive team effort in supporting students that did arrive this morning to be sent home quickly and safely. I am grateful to the buses that remained onsite so that students could be taken home and to parents that changed their plans in order to come and collect their children.

The decision to close is never any easy one to make, but for me will always come down to two key factors:

- The ability to maintain the safety of students, staff and families in our community (this includes travel to/from school)
- The ability to maintain the quality of education we can deliver

...in that priority order.

I truly believe that we made the right decision today, but do want to be able to communicate any decision around school closure to everyone as soon as possible.

This has not always been the case as often we are reliant on staff and parental feedback, live, in the moment, to understand the challenges faced on the roads. This has meant that the decision to close is often made after many families have left for school, along with staff of course. I am well aware of the frustration and upset this can cause, although this has never been our intention.

Equally, I am always grateful of the positive comments and support from parents we receive when you feel that we've done the right thing – they are very much appreciated!

With regard to tomorrow – we will be open as normal.

This is because the weather forecast is currently showing a Yellow Rain Warning until midnight, with rain expected to fall in Crewkerne until 8pm tonight (although it's stopped for several hours now) and then clear spells all through tomorrow. This would suggest rainwater on roads will have time to drain by tomorrow morning, meaning we would be open as usual.

Forecasts have struggled to be accurate though! Our pinch points are the Lopen Road, the A30 to Yeovil and colleagues travelling from Axminster – if these routes remain impassable it's likely that we won't have enough staff onsite by 8.30am to start the day, and therefore we'd need to close again.



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Chair of Governors: Mr C Chapman



I don't see a 'late' or delayed start to the day as a beneficial alternative, as this will still generate a similar amount of disruption to parents and staff, and there may be colleagues and students that regardless of this delay to the day, still can't get in.

I have asked the School Transport Team if they can confirm to us, by 7.30am tomorrow, whether school buses will be running as normal.

They have said that they can't guarantee to be able to advise parents or schools by 7.30am of cancelled routes, but will update parents and the school once they are updated by bus companies of any specific routes which are unable to operate. They say that any floods are localised, so there won't be a blanket cancellation of transport.

Based on this response, and the current weather forecast, we expect transport to be running as normal, further supporting our decision at this time to keep the school open.

How will we inform parents/carers if there is a need to close tomorrow?

A message confirming whether the school is open or closed will be displayed on our website and sent out to parents, students and staff via the Edulink app by 7.30am in the morning.

It is my intention to send this message sooner if possible.

What learning will take place if the school is closed tomorrow?

I have already shared with staff the need to prepare for remote learning, similar to what was in place during the days affected by industrial action last year.

If the school is closed, students will be able to follow their timetable and access work provided by their teachers on Teams. Teachers will 'live' launch the first 10 minutes of the lesson and remain online during the lesson to give feedback and guidance to students.

The normal timings of the day will be followed, with gaps between lessons for comfort breaks, as well as the morning break and longer break at lunchtime.

Although we expect students (wherever possible) to access Teams and engage with remote learning, we also respect that it is your decision as parents to decide how your children make best use of this time.

I hope this gives further explanation regarding the decision taken today and how we have taken steps to give a clear message at an agreed time tomorrow morning regarding any changes in our current plan to be **OPEN.**

We're hopeful the forecast remains accurate, roads do clear, and it's 'business as usual' again tomorrow. As ever, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Burgas
Headteacher