



# Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

*"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10*



8<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **RE: Adverse Weather – School Closure 08.03.23**

A huge thankyou this morning as we worked to determine our ability to remain open as planned, given the adverse weather conditions across Crewkerne, Ilminster and the surrounding area.

I'm writing to give further information regarding the decision to close. I know there may be mixed opinion in response to the closure today, but as Headteacher, I have a legal duty regarding the safety of everyone on site.

In reaching today's decision:

- Members of the site team were onsite by 6.00am, and although snow had covered the area, we were able to clear and grit pathways in anticipation of everyone arriving.
- Members of the Leadership team and key staff were onsite just before 7.00am and were able to monitor levels of staff absence as calls came in. At the same time, we were contacting the School Transport Team to determine the situation regarding our buses.
- By 7.15am it was clear that we had significant staff absence, both unplanned (illness) and a number of staff unable to make the journey to school due to the state of the roads in their area. At this point our capacity to cover lessons was reached – we could be open, although a large number of lessons across all year groups would have been affected.
- During the next 10mins, another 6 members of staff called in to say they were unable to get to school, or had set off, and were now stuck due to traffic queues or other adverse conditions on their journey.

This new information – and I appreciate this took us right up to when many students had already left for their buses – meant that we no longer had enough staff physically onsite to safely manage students during the day, and the decision to close was made.

With regard to work set and expectations of students today, I know that several staff, including Heads of Year, have taken to Teams to signpost work for students to complete.

Work can also be found on the Oak National Academy website, where students can access appropriate learning: [Oak National Academy \(thenational.academy\)](https://thenational.academy)

I am happy for parents and carers to determine the work/life balance students undertake today – work is available online, and, going forward, I will be reviewing our protocols following emergency closure and taking feedback from staff and parents to see where improvements can be made. We expect to be open as normal tomorrow.

As ever, thank you for your continued support.

Your sincerely,

Richard Burgas  
Headteacher

