

Snow and adverse weather policy

The safety of our children, staff and the families who use our nursery is of the utmost importance to us. We will therefore endeavour to remain open where possible during bad weather conditions but this will heavily depend upon a number of circumstances.

1) If we are predicted bad weather/ snow we MAY make the decision to close the nursery the following day. In this situation, we will call all parents registered on our database to notify everyone of the closure of the nursery and we will endeavour to also publish this on our nursery website.

2) If the nursery remains open during bad weather conditions, we will aim to operate as normal for as long as possible. This will however depend upon; how many staff members are able to safely travel to work, the nursery building inside and outside is accessible and safe, and the temperature is suitable for the children when inside. **We cannot and will not remain open unless the minimum correct adult: child ratio can be met. (as per the Statutory Framework set out by Ofsted, point 3.31)** Therefore, if the nursery opens and only a certain number of staff members are able to work on this day, unfortunately the children that we are able to accept on that day will be based on a first come first serve basis. In the morning we will take telephone confirmation that you will be bringing your child into Nursery that day. Once we reach our maximum capacity we will e-mail all parents to advise that we are now full and cannot accept any more children. We will aim to contact other staff members from our wider team and our Bank Staff members, but we are not able to go over the required ratio number. If this situation happens, we will call families who are due in this day and explain the situation.

3) If the nursery is open as normal and we have bad weather during the day, the Nursery Manager and Owner will have the final judgement on whether the nursery remains open for the day and for how long this might be. In their absence, the Deputy Manager will have the final judgement. The safety of everyone accessing the nursery is the most important thing, and if we feel parents need to start collecting their children in order to get home safely, phone calls will be made to all parents to inform them of our decision.

4) Staff members will be sent home in order of distance or personal circumstances, but only as and when ratios are correct within the nursery.

Snow can be very exciting for the children and we like to be able to make these times fun for the children and incorporate learning opportunities so therefore we ask that you provide your child with adequate outside clothing (boots, snow suits, hats, gloves etc) Most of the time travel and the operation of the nursery can remain normal, but we ask that all parents understand the need for safety when faced with bad weather.

We ask that parents please refer to the Terms and Conditions in regards to charges associated with our Adverse Weather policy.

When it does snow, we would like to encourage parents to take care on the driveway to the Nursery as it is on a slight slope.

*This policy was revised at a meeting in January 2019. Kerry Allen (Nursery Manager) and Naomi Washer (Deputy Manager) were present.
(Policy to be reviewed during the month of January 2020 spring term)*