

What happens if we have very poor weather?

(Updated on 30th January 2019)

We will always stay open if possible. However, if we experience very cold/icy weather I will make a decision each morning, having risk assessed the school and car park, as to whether it is safe to open the school for both pupils and staff. We follow guidelines issued by the local authority and have to make sure that the site is safe and we have enough members of staff in order to supervise the children.

If the school is open, you have the responsibility to ensure your children come to school, but only if it is safe to do so.

Any reported absences outside of a 1-mile radius may receive an attendance code that reflects the severity of the weather.

Should I decide to close the school there are a few ways you can find out:

- A text message will be sent to all Parents/Carers
- You could look at www.kentclosures.co.uk this site is updated every few minutes.
- We also recommend parents sign up for Email alerts on the Kent Closures website. This service will send an email alert to let parents know if East Stour Primary School is closed. Full details can be found below.
- Local radio stations such as KMFM or Heart Ashford

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service.

We recognise that it is important our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. East Stour Primary School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting pathways, clearing access points etc.

What can you do to help?

- Please visit 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 Main gate into the school. The Back Gate may be closed.
- Check with the school to see whether you need to provide a packed lunch from home in case school meals cannot be provided.
- Do not forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing.
- If you are a working parent and think you may have a problem with a sudden earlier

pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates

- Many thanks for your support in helping East Stour Primary School remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.

The Kent Closures Website **Updated January 2019**

The Kent Closures website allows a school representative to log in (with a school specific password) and change the 'status' of the school to 'open', 'closed' or 'partially closed'. The information will then be displayed on the website for parents and staff. Additionally, a parent or member of staff can then request to receive an email when a status is changed by the school. It is completely free to state funded schools (including Academies & Free Schools) in the KCC area

Parent and Staff Action

1. Register with the Kent Closures Website

To receive notifications, you should register for alerts.

Visit www.kentclosures.co.uk and click the '**Register for Alerts**' button on the left side of the screen.

Fill in your

- first name
- surname
- house number
- postcode
- email address
- password
- re-type password

Then click register.

You will be sent a confirmation email in which you will need to click a link to complete registration. Please check your spam folder.

2. Register for School Alerts

Once you have registered, you need to tell the system which school(s) you want to receive alerts from.

Register Yourself

Visit www.kentclosures.co.uk and click the '**Alerts Login**' button on the left side of the screen.

Fill in your

- email address
- password

Then click 'sign in'

Register to Receive Alerts from your Choice of School

Under 'Add a School'

- Using the drop down menu, choose the town or village nearest to the school you want to receive alerts from, the drop down menu
- Using the next drop down menu, choose the school
- Click on 'add school to alerts'
- You can add as many schools as you wish.

You should now receive an email if there is a status change reported by your chosen schools