



Friesland School

1/3/18

SCHOOL CLOSURES THIS WEEK AND PTA IRISH EVENING POSTPONED TOMORROW NIGHT

Dear Parent /Carer

Just a short note of explanation regarding why it has been necessary to close the school today and tomorrow. In short, the site is simply not currently safe due to the adverse weather. You will have probably noticed that all of the other local secondary schools were closed today and will be again tomorrow. It is very unusual for primary and infant schools to close at these times but most of those have closed locally too. It is the worst weather we have had during term time for several years and the safety of students and staff has to be paramount. Compared to most other schools, our site is particularly challenging when it snows as the school is built on a hill and students have to move between up to seven different buildings in the course of a day. We also have to be confident that the buses can safely travel to and from school including up and down Nursery Avenue. Additionally, we have staff who live as far away as Doncaster, Hinckley and Grantham. We have to be confident we can staff the school if we remain open. There are a lot of factors I must take into consideration in making the decision.

It is extremely regrettable that we have had to close for two days at a time when school has recently been shut to most students for five days due to industrial action. Our site staff did all they could through today to make the site safe but the odds were stacked against them because it barely stopped snowing all day. I wanted to allow every opportunity for school to be open tomorrow and was ready to go in myself with the site staff at 6.00am tomorrow to attempt to clear paths and walkways. However, we would still almost certainly have needed to shut given the temperatures forecast through the night and tomorrow. I was conscious that a large number of parents wanted the decision made this evening so that arrangements could be made for childcare tomorrow. This is why the text message was sent earlier this evening. As I write this letter, it is bitterly cold outside with a severe wind chill factor. I do believe the right decision has been made.

I have asked all teachers today to put as much work on google classroom as possible for classes they would have taught tomorrow if school was open. Please do encourage your child to go online at home tomorrow and complete some school work.

I also need to inform you that the PTA Irish Evening scheduled for 7.00pm in the School Hall tomorrow night has had to be postponed due to the adverse weather. This will be re-arranged for a new date in April or May when existing tickets will still be valid - more details to follow in due course about this.

Thank you for your patience and continued support of the school during a very challenging term.

Yours sincerely

Mr P. Monk - Headteacher

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