

11 January 2019

Heptonstall
Junior, Infant and
Nursery School

Newsletter

HAPPY NEW
2019
YEAR

Welcome Back!

All of us at school hope you had a fantastic Christmas and we look forward to working with you all again throughout 2019.

Snow!



Although at present the weather and forecast is quite mild, at this time of year it is always a good idea to remind you all how you will be informed if we have to close school due to bad weather.

The decision whether to open or close school is always a very difficult one and many factors play a part in the decision: Can enough staff get in to supervise children?; Can dinners be delivered?; Are the surrounding roads safe?; What will the situation potentially be at 3.30pm? ...the list goes on.

The decision to open or close is one of those that is never going to please everyone but at the end of the day someone does need to make that decision and that duty falls with myself.

One thing that I would like to make very clear is that if, on a snow bound day, we do decide to **open** but you feel that it is unsafe for your child to come to school – or you feel you would potentially struggle to collect them at the end of the day THEN PLEASE DON'T SEND THEM. We would never expect you to struggle to get your children in when the weather is poor. This decision has to be yours.

So how do you find out if we are open or closed? We will initially use our Text service to parents to let you know. We will also put information on the school website www.heptonstallschool.org.uk. The information will also be put up on the Calderdale website. Visit www.calderdale.gov.uk and from here you will be signposted to Emergency School Closures. Please note however that on heavy snow days a lot of schools are trying to access the same websites so it might take us some time to upload the information.

We will also try and have someone at school to answer the phones, but for obvious reasons this might not be always possible.

We will endeavour to make any decision by 8.00am.

It is of course more difficult to decide to close once we have initially opened. In circumstances such as these we will text to ask you to come and collect your children as soon as it is safe to do so. Therefore on days where there might be a risk of this please make sure you keep checking your phone! Obviously staff will stay at school until every child can be collected!



Gritting!

For your information please see below the school policy on gritting.

Heptonstall School - Gritting Procedure and Protocol

At Heptonstall School we will aim on icy mornings to provide a safe ingress and egress from the school building.

However it is impractical to attempt to grit all areas.

This would be

- (a) Cost prohibitive
- (b) Unachievable with just one caretaker. (Other school staff, with the exception of the Headteacher) should **NOT** grit any areas.

Therefore as soon as practicable on arrival at school on icy mornings the caretaker will grit the following areas: **(Section "A")**

- The path and steps leading up to the main entrance
- Create a walkway to both the doors off the "old playground"
- The steps leading up to the school field

The following areas will **NOT** be gritted:

- Any playground area (if snowy/icy children will play on the field if deemed safe, otherwise indoor play)
- The Staff Car Park
- The path down the side of the field

On icy mornings/afternoons for safety, children in HOSC should enter/exit through the doors in the link tunnel. There will be a bell for HOSC parents to ring. HOSC staff should manage this system.

It is advised that all children/adults should walk down the cobbles to enter school via the safe path detailed in Section A above.

School will endeavour on icy mornings to send out a Teachers2parents text to advise of this.

NOTE: Responsibility for gritting the cobbles is that of Calderdale MBC Highways and not the school. Under no circumstances will school grit any area of public highway/path.



"Religious" Assemblies



Sunday next week (20th January) is World Religions Day. In our assemblies next week we will be hearing different stories from some of the different religions in the world.

As many religions have some form of prayer the In/Out song will be Pray For Peace by Reba McEntire and the chosen lyric is:

*Pray for peace (Pray for our leaders)
Pray for peace (Pray for our forgiveness)
Pray for peace (We got to pray for freedom)
Please pray for peace (Please pray for us)*

*Pray for peace (Pray for our family)
Pray for peace (Pray for your brothers)
Pray for peace (Pray for our sisters)
Please pray for peace (Please pray for me)*

*Pray for peace (Oh pray for wisdom)
Pray for peace (And pray for knowledge)
Pray for peace (Pray for understanding)
Please pray for peace (Pray for the world)*

Pray for peace

..and no matter what religion anyone is, surely this is what we all want.

Click on the picture to listen to the song

