



8th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope this letter finds you well, and that you are keeping safe and warm during this challenging weather.

As you are aware, this week's severe weather conditions have necessitated the closure of the school to the majority of staff and pupils. Residents of Buxton will be all too familiar with the significant snowfall since Sunday, which only ceased late on Tuesday night. While the main roads have seen some improvement today, side roads and pavements remain treacherous, and several major routes into and out of the town are still closed. These conditions have understandably created difficulties for both staff and families trying to travel safely to school.

We are hopeful that some of these routes will reopen later today and remain accessible for the rest of the week. Public transport services are beginning to resume, though delays and cancellations continue to pose challenges.

Efforts are ongoing to ensure the school site is safe for reopening. However, with very low temperatures forecast for tonight and tomorrow, we remain concerned about the potential for icy conditions—not just within the school grounds but also on surrounding roads and pavements, which are beyond our control.

At present, we are aiming to reopen the school tomorrow, *Thursday 9th January*, with a delayed start time of 10:00am for pupils. As always, we will assess conditions in the morning and communicate any updates by 8:30am.

Palace Road and Lascelles Road

In light of the current conditions, we must emphasise that Palace Road and Lascelles Road are particularly unsafe for driving. The icy surfaces have made these roads unsuitable for drop-offs and collections. To prevent accidents and ensure everyone's safety, we kindly request that parents refrain from using these roads when bringing pupils to and from school. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping these areas as safe as possible.

Appropriate Clothing for Pupils

We would like to remind parents that pupils will need to wear a warm coat for when they are outside and walking to and from school. Additionally, pupils may wear more robust footwear suitable for snow and ice for the remainder of this week. However, please note that trainers will not be accepted as a suitable alternative. We appreciate your support in ensuring pupils are dressed appropriately for the conditions.

We understand that decisions regarding closures and delays can elicit mixed responses—some parents support such precautions, while others may feel frustrated. Please rest assured that all decisions are made with the safety and well-being of everyone as our utmost priority.

Thank you for your understanding and patience during this time.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Redfern
Headteacher

