

7th January 2010

Dear Parents and Carers

During this extended period of cold winter weather we are making decisions on a daily basis as whether to keep the school open or to close. This decision is informed by these key factors:

- 1) Health and Safety on the school site. The school consists of many separate buildings connected by outdoor pathways. These pathways must safely allow students to move from one building to another. Some areas of the school are connected by outdoor steps. With over 1100 students and staff on our site these pathways and steps need to be clear of ice. Like many other schools and businesses we are running low on grit and are making every effort to order more.
- 2) Safety of transport to and from school for staff and pupils. Only around 50% of our students walk to school and many of our staff travel long distances.
- 3) Staffing levels. We need to be secure that we have enough staff on site to adequately supervise the students.

Whilst this weather continues we will need to make daily decisions about the feasibility of keeping the school open. We will communicate decisions on school closure by text message and the school website (www.southwolds.notts.sch.uk) as near to 7:30a.m as possible. Any information we receive from the bus companies will be posted on our website as soon as we have it. We do also contact all local radio stations.

As with Wednesday this week, circumstances can change after we have made an initial decision to remain open. If this is the case then we will let you know as soon as possible - there will always be someone at school who can look after children until you are able to make arrangements for them to be picked up.

Monday 11th January sees the start of a series of external exams for students in Years 11,12 and 13. If we are forced to close the school when one of these exams is due to take place then ***we will do all that we can to open to the students who are taking an exam.***

Please be reassured that we will do all that we can to stay fully open during the next few weeks. I fully understand the issues that school closure causes for families and would like to thank you all for your cooperation and understanding during this difficult period.

Yours sincerely

Andrew George
Headteacher