



## **Snow & Adverse Weather/Conditions Policy**

The safety of our children, staff and the families who use our settings, is of the utmost importance to us. We will therefore endeavour to remain open where possible during bad weather, or other adverse conditions that affect operational running, but this will heavily depend upon a number of circumstances.

If adverse conditions are predicted we may make the decision to close the nursery the following day. In this situation, each child's primary contact will be individually contacted by telephone, via Family and/or email to notify them of the closure. Staff would be notified, if not in person, then by these methods also.

If the nursery remains open during adverse conditions, we will aim to operate as normal for as long as possible. However, we may make the decision to open later or close earlier, depending on: how many staff members are able to work/safely travel to and from work, the nursery building both inside and outside being accessible and safe, and the temperature being suitable for the children when inside.

It should be noted that we cannot remain open unless the minimum legal adult:child ratios can be met. Therefore, if the nursery opens and only a certain number of staff members are able to work on the day, unfortunately the children that we are able to accept on will be prioritised on the basis of whether they are children of critical workers, vulnerable children and children with SEND.

If the nursery is open as normal and we experience adverse conditions during the day, the Directors will have the final judgement on whether the nursery remains open for the day and for how long. We will take into consideration any local school closures, along with the local area forecast, as well as following any relevant Local Authority and/or government instruction/guidelines. We will also monitor closely the services available by public transport. The safety of everyone accessing the nursery is of great importance, if we feel parents need to start collecting their children earlier than usual in order to get home safely, phone calls will be made to all parents to inform them of our decision.

Staff members will be sent home in order of distance or personal circumstances, but only as and when ratios within the nursery allow it. These decisions will be made at the discretion of the Management team. Staff will be expected to complete tasks from home such as planning, preparation and assessment.



Snow specifically, can be very exciting for the children and we like to be able to make these times fun for them and incorporate learning opportunities. To this end, we ask that children attending nursery when snow is forecast and /or evident, are sent in appropriate clothing with suitable outerwear and footwear. As always, all items should be name-labelled.

Most of the time, travel and the operation of the nursery can remain normal, but we ask that all parents understand the need for safety when faced with bad weather. We suggest that when it does snow, that staff and parents give themselves ample time to make their way to and from the setting and that they travel as safely as possible. If driving, we recommend using and parking on, main roads wherever possible.

Please note that there will be no refunds offered for any closures or alterations to opening hours for the reasons detailed above. We do not take the decision to close our setting lightly and would only ever do so under extreme unavoidable conditions.