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9th March 2023

Dear Parents,

I wanted to write to thank the many parents who have been supportive with regards to the decisions made today in light of the poor weather.

Many of you will know that we do not make the decision to close the school unless there is very good reason. However, in the event of particularly poor weather, should we have to make the decision to close a text will go out as early as possible – we would aim to make a decision by 7am or as close to this time as possible. Today, the decision was made to stay open given the conditions around that time and we prepared the site accordingly. Staff were all in school, and I had received messages from local schools to say they were also open.

The weather deteriorated from 7.30 to 8.30am and some schools made the decision to close at the last minute, causing an issue for families already on their way to school and we did not want to put families in that position.

I understand some parents made the decision not to attempt to bring in their children, due to the distance they travel and I totally support those decisions. However, we made the decision to remain open for the day, to allow children to come in who could get into school.

Given that we had a number of calls mid-morning asking if parents could collect children early, we decided to allow parents, who were worried about conditions, to collect their children in the afternoon if they wished to. However, school was still open and at no point did we decide to actually close.

We hope that by giving parents the choice, it would ease the burden for those who were concerned, whilst allowing children to stay in school until the end of the day, if parents were happy for them to do so.

I know you will appreciate that these decisions are never easy and we will always be in a position where we will upset some parents whatever decision is made. But I hope you also know that we always do our utmost to try and make the best decision at that time.

Should we make the decision to close in future, along with a text message being sent, it will also be announced on Sandwell's website and Facebook page. If you do not receive a text to say we are closed you should assume we are open.

Thank you again for understanding and your support in this matter.

Mrs Gilbert