



Important

Inclement Weather

"Schools should, wherever possible, stay open in severe weather. They play a key role in their communities and by staying open help both their pupils and parents" Department for Education

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service. As a fundamental principle every effort must be made to keep schools open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend. However, schools may close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for all staff or pupils to be on site. We recognise that it is important that our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. Framwellgate Moor Primary School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting pathways and clearing access points.

However, if we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, we may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made, a notification will be displayed on the home page of the school website immediately. This will be updated regularly and identify times for further updates. There will also be notification via the Durham closures website www.durham.gov.uk/schoolclosures.

In the event of SNOW - School Access plan

The footpath next to Chastleton Doctors will be closed

2 Footpaths to be used by all pedestrians:

- Black Path
- Nursery Footpath

The Black Path is a much safer route for pedestrians in the snow and ice as the children are kept away from cars slipping on the ice. All Year 1 and 2 children would access the building next to the Year 4 classroom with the KS2 children. The Reception Pupils will access their classroom on the opposite side of the Link Corridor than usual.

All children living in the immediate housing near the school and in the Housing across the Finchale Road can use the Nursery Footpath.

The school website will indicate whether the children can be collected by car users from 2pm and the Black Path opened early for this purpose. www.framprimary.durham.sch.uk

The Nursery access drop off will continue to be open for Nursery parents only. All staff will be using this entrance to attend school therefore there will be an increase in cars using the drive. The yard will be used for staff. Please avoid travelling by car if at all possible as the congestion on Newton Drive in icy weather is a huge concern.

The Nursery footpath will be open.

The car park next to the Park at the top of the Black Path and the car Park behind the Community Centre (next to St Aiden's Lodge) will be open for all other parents across the school.

What can you do to help?

- Do not use the Nursery Drop off area unless you have a Nursery child attending and you cannot walk to Nursery.
- All other cars travelling to school to use the 2 allocated areas at the top of the Black Path
- Warm clothing - gloves, hats, scarves, wellies and a change of shoes
- If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.

Many thanks for your support in helping Framwellgate Moor Primary School to remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.