



Adverse weather policy

The Nursery is committed to providing uninterrupted care throughout the year and has the highest regard for the safety of the children in our care. This is a matter of both legal and moral importance; therefore we aim to provide this service in all weather conditions including periods when there may be floods, snow and heat waves.

If any of these incidents impact on the ability for the nursery to operate, we will contact parents via telephone.

➤ **Flood**

In the case of a flood we will follow our critical incident procedure to enable all children and staff to be safe and continuity of care to be planned for.

➤ **Snow**

If high snow fall is threatened during a nursery day then the duty manager will take the decision as to whether to close the nursery. This decision will take into account the safety of the children, their parents and the staff team. In the event of a planned closure during the nursery day we will contact all parents to arrange for collection of their child.

In the event of staff shortages due to snow we will contact all available off duty staff and/or agency staff and group the children differently until they are able to arrive. If we are unable to maintain statutory ratio requirements after all avenues are explored we will contact Ofsted to inform them of this issue, recording all details in our incident file. If we feel the safety, health or welfare of the children is compromised then we will take the decision to close the nursery.

Safety measures

The safety of staff and children is the priority of the Nursery as snow and ice presents health and safety risks. Due to the high risk for slips, trips and falls, when outdoors, the Nursery advises staff and children to:

- Walk; not run
- Wear footwear with a non slip sole, for example, wellington boots

➤ **Heat wave** - Please refer to our sun care policy.

Procedures:

All staff will be familiarised with the provisions contained within this policy as part of their induction and be expected to act in accordance with them at all times.

In the event of extreme adverse weather conditions:

- We will not normally close and will only close if staff and children cannot access Nursery



- All staff should attempt to get to work if it is possible and safe to do so. Salaries may be affected if all reasonable efforts to get to work are not made
- Paths, entrances to buildings, steps and exits will be cleared and made safe for children, staff and parents
- Fees are payable if closure is due to adverse weather conditions

During the months of November to March the Manager will:

- Closely monitor the notification of potential weather alerts by the Met Office (on: <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/>)
- Check and maintain stock levels of salt regularly and ensure that the salt stock levels are adequate for the weather conditions (a minimum of 10kg is to be stored in the cleaner's cupboard at all times during this period). Staff using the salt is responsible for informing management should stocking levels fall below the minimum amount.

Despite the high level of safety measures in place, in exceptionally severe weather conditions (heavy snow or freezing conditions that result in a lack of safe travel), the Nursery will contact all parents with information regarding Nursery closure. Parents will be kept informed as to when the Nursery will re-open.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date to be reviewed
<i>August 2017</i>	<i>Adele Stone</i>	<i>August 2018</i>