

Bicester Technology Studio

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Dear Parent/Carer,

The Winter season is now upon us and we're expecting hazardous travelling conditions during the coming months. As a result, we may need to close the school in order to prevent staff and students being placed at unnecessary risk, or being inadequately supervised in the school during bad weather.

We understand that our decision to open or close the school in bad weather has a big effect on families, but as always, our top priority is the safety of our students and staff.

Closure of school is never an easy decision to take and is not taken lightly. However, there are a number of factors that must be taken into consideration when assessing the risks. In particular, will public transport be able to operate? Are most staff able to get to school in order to supervise the students safely? Is the school site and its immediate surroundings dangerous and what is the likelihood of conditions further deteriorating during the day? Can we ensure everyone will be able to get home safely?

We will always try, where possible, to pre-empt the decision as follows:

- **We will monitor travel advice from the Met Office and Others.**
- **We would aim to respond to travel advisories in time for families to plan alternative arrangements for our students.**
- **The school will email parents on our distribution in the evening regarding a closure on the following day.**
- **Should conditions deteriorate overnight, we will email parents first thing in the morning.**
- **A post will be displayed on our website and the local radio will also have details of all school closures.**

Schools

- The Bicester School
 - Bicester Technology Studio
 - UTC Oxfordshire
 - UTC Reading
 - UTC Swindon
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If the decision is to close school, we would ask students to log on to their student account, as teachers have already provided resources for students to work through and may email additional work and guidance, as we would ask that students independently work at home and use this time to learn.

Even when we make the decision to open, families must make their own local decisions about whether their journeys are safe – please only send your children to school if it is safe for them to travel.

Please note that closure may happen during the day if conditions are likely to hamper a safe journey home. In this event, students will not be able to remain at school until they are picked up as staff must also leave the area whilst it is still safe.

In this instance, we would ask students to wait in a suitable public area, i.e. the leisure centre. Should this occur, the school will liaise with Parents as necessary.

Please could we ask if students are wearing alternative footwear to school i.e. wellies, they do bring a change of shoes with them to wear while in school.

We will monitor weather reports and forecasts and hopefully any adverse conditions will only happen during the weekends and holidays to ensure as little disruption to school as possible.

Kind Regards
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