Clayton St John CofE Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs G Emsley Deputy Headteacher: Mrs L Allingham

8th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your patience and support during this recent wintry weather. Deciding whether to close is never easy, but your understanding makes a big difference.

Please be assured that closing the school is always a last resort. When deciding, we must carefully balance the safety of our children and families and the safety of our staff, many of whom travel from quite a distance to be here.

As we look ahead, **more wintry weather is predicted for tomorrow.** To help everyone feel prepared, I have listed what happens when making a decision:

Our Decision-Making Process
It might sometimes seem like a slow decision from the outside, but behind the scenes, we are working hard to gather information. There is also a group of people making this choice alongside me. This includes:

- **Assessing the site:** Speaking with the BDAT estates team about the safety of our grounds.
- **Assessing if a later opening is appropriate:** Like today, we may open slightly later to allow for safer travel in daylight and keep registers open longer.
- **Local context:** Checking social media and communicating with other local schools.
- **Assessing if a partial opening is appropriate:** Considering if we can open later to allow the site to be made safe and staff time to travel.

How You Can Help
To ensure everything runs smoothly tomorrow and throughout the winter, we ask that you:

- **Dress for the weather:** Please ensure both you and your children are wearing appropriate, sturdy footwear and clothing for icy or snowy paths.
- **Update your details:** Please ensure the school office has **two up-to-date contact numbers** for you, just in case we need to contact you for an emergency closure during the school day.
- **Have a "Snow Plan":** We recommend having a family plan in place for collecting your children, particularly if our Explorers wrap-around care must close early.

A member of the bdat family

- **Stay Informed:** Keep a close eye on our official communication channels for updates.

Most importantly, **please do not travel unless you feel confident that you can do so safely**.
Thank you again for being such a supportive community it makes such a difference.

Kind regards and stay safe,
Mrs Emsley
Head Teacher