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

Re: Closure today 7th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to explain the reasons for the decision to close school due to the icy conditions, as I understand that not all families were affected in the same way and this may have caused some confusion.

Early in the morning, staff began reporting that roads and footpaths around school were extremely icy. This included reports of cars struggling and members of staff slipping and falling while on their way to school.

Clayton St John has five different entrances, and while the main entrance and road were passable, several of the entrances used by a large number of families—particularly at the back and sides of school—were dangerous.

Before making the final decision, I spoke directly with senior staff on site and asked whether families could travel to school safely on all routes. As this could not be assured, I had to make the difficult decision to close the school.

I fully appreciate that some families were able to travel safely and that other local schools remained open. However, my responsibility is to ensure the safety of **all** children, families, and staff, not just those using certain routes. I could not guarantee that everyone would be able to arrive safely.

Please be assured that this decision was not taken lightly and our plan is that school will be open as usual tomorrow.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Kind regards,

Gemma Emsley
Head Teacher