

School Closure Procedure – 2019

It is our policy that the school will be open, as stated, during term time unless there is a significant risk to pupils and staff. Therefore, the school will be open unless otherwise announced. The decision to close lies with the Head Teacher and will be taken no later than 8:00am on the day of the closure.

The school is under no obligation to confirm it will be open as usual, it only needs to communicate if/when it is *closed* therefore, if you have heard nothing to the contrary you must presume the school is still open.

Parents are reminded that when the school is open, pupils are obliged to attend. Failure to do so will mean the child being marked with an 'unauthorised absence'.

If the decision to close *is* taken, parents DO NOT NEED TO PHONE THE SCHOOL but you will be notified via text message and email plus, we will also announce any closure on the following;

- the school website www.moulsham-jun.essex.sch.uk
- Essex County Councils site www.essex.gov.uk
- social media (Twitter) twitter.com/Moulshamjunior

The type of factors that will be taken into account when considering school closure include:

- Actual/potential risk to pupils/staff on the school premises
- Actual/potential risk to pupils/staff travelling to and from school
- Advice from the emergency services
- Advice from the Gas, Electricity and Water companies
- Advice from the local authority, Department for Education and HM Government

In the case of severe weather (eg. snow) the local forecast may be taken into account (in particular the risk of severe icy road conditions) to aid any decisions.

It should be noted that as a Junior school, almost all of our pupils live within walking distance to Moulsham, which is often the case for other local schools ie. Moulsham Infants and Oakland Infants. However, the decision to close or not still rests with the individual Head Teacher at each school but the schools *will* be in contact to maintain a common approach where possible.

The situation may be different at other local schools (eg. Moulsham High), as they may have significantly larger pupil/staff numbers coming from a large catchment area and who may rely far more heavily on public and private transport and therefore they have to take this into account when deciding on closures.

Marie Staley (Head Teacher) and Mike Klym (Chair of Governors)

