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December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

### ***Severe Snow/Ice Plan for Parents and Families***

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service.

As a fundamental principle every effort must be made to keep schools open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend. However, schools may close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite.

We recognise that it is important our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. Barham will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting paths around our site and clearing access points.

#### ***How will we let you know if the school is closed?***

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, the co-headteachers, Mrs Higgins and Mrs Duhig, may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made we will notify parents via the Kent Closures website. To determine whether Barham is open or closed please visit [www.kentclosures.co.uk](http://www.kentclosures.co.uk). Search for the school in the search box. The Kent Closures website may also be used to find out if other services in Kent are open or closed, such as nurseries, children's centres and libraries. We also recommend parents sign up for Email alerts on the Kent Closures website. This service will send an email alert to let parents know if Barham is closed. We will also send out an announcement on Seesaw should we need to close the school.

#### ***What can you do to help?***

- Please visit [www.kent.gov.uk/winter](http://www.kent.gov.uk/winter) for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.
- Please approach the school from the usual entrance.
- Check with the school to see whether you need to provide a packed lunch from home in case school meals cannot be provided.
- Don't forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing.
- If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.



Many thanks for your support in helping Barham remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signatures of Alison Higgins and Jo Duhig in blue ink. The signature for Alison Higgins is on the left and the signature for Jo Duhig is on the right.

Alison Higgins  
Co-headteacher

Jo Duhig  
Co-headteacher