



## Join the Learning Adventure

### **Snow, Bad Weather and Emergency Closure Policy**

Whilst we take the health and safety of our pupils and staff very seriously, our primary responsibility is to keep the school open for as long as possible in adverse weather conditions so that our pupils benefit from the learning opportunities available to them. This view is supported by the Education Secretary, Michael Gove, who made clear to Parliament that "everything should be done to keep schools open during wintry weather" (Michael Gove, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013). All steps will be taken to keep Bromley Heath Junior School open during periods of extreme winter weather and families should always assume that school will be open unless informed otherwise.

In the event of bad weather the Senior Leadership Team and Caretaker will work to ensure that the site is both accessible and safe.

There are however rare instances where the school might not be able to open as normal as a result of severe weather. As part of the review to open/close the school full Health and Safety considerations will be taken into account. Any decision taken to close the school in snow or bad weather will be taken as quickly as possible bearing in mind the school's aim of keeping the school open whenever possible. Parents will be informed of this decision by 7.30am. In such instances any changes to the usual opening arrangements will be communicated on the school website, BBC Radio Bristol and Heart Radio. A text system is also in place to let parents know if the school is closed due to bad weather.

If the school has to make the decision to close the school in the day due to an emergency such as a flood or electrical/heating problems we will text all parents informing them of this. We will hold all children safely until a named contact is able to collect them.

Given the event of bad weather the school advises all pupils, staff and visitors to wrap up warmly and wear sensible shoes. If there is snow and the school is open bring your wellies so we can have some fun!