



## Adverse Weather Policy

At Newtongrange Primary we ensure safety of our children, families and staff are a priority. This means that we need to ensure we have planning in place in case of severe or adverse weather.

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Director, Education, Communities and Economy. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
2. Conditions on site are dangerous
3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.
4. Loss of essential services – power, heating or water – may also necessitate the early dismissal of pupils or cancellation of activities.

If after taking guidance it is decided to close the school, information will be available from Midlothian Council website at [www.midlothian.gov.uk](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk) and local media, including Forth Radio or Black Diamond FM.

At a school level we try to keep you up to date through:

- Text message
- School App

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is registered as authorised absence.

**The Policy at Newtongrange Primary School for adverse weather conditions is that:**

### **At the start of the school day**

Wherever possible the school will remain open, however due to road conditions some staff may be late arriving and the start of the school day could be affected. Registers are not closed on snow days until 10.30am. Please travel to school safely. We ask parents to work in partnership with us as routines will obviously change on these days. Parents are encouraged to check Midlothian Council website or listen to the local radio for details of any closure. Staff will endeavour to answer the telephone but it might not be possible if limited staff have arrived at school before the school day starts.

### **During the school day**

In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted by text messaging and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances. Should a parent not be able to be contacted or a child cannot be picked up by parent/carer, additional contacts provided by parents for collection purposes throughout the year will be used as the next means of communication. If a pupil normally travels home

alone, in the event of an early closure they can travel home if it is safe to do so and if the school can confirm that the parent/carer has received the early closure confirmation.

**It is important the school has your most current emergency contact details.**

## **Gritting**

Pupils are encouraged to go outside in most weather conditions and should have waterproofs etc when the weather is wet or snowy. When the playgrounds are particularly wet or icy, pupils may not be allowed outside at break times for their own safety. The janitor will do their best to salt main pathways to the school. We cannot salt the whole playground. We would therefore recommend that staff, parents and pupils treat all path and playground areas as potential slip hazards and take appropriate precautions in cold weather.

## **Arrangements for transported pupils**

Some children are taken to and from school by taxi. If the taxi driver does not feel that the roads are safe to travel on, the driver will inform the Head Teacher of this. Families will also be contacted by taxi driver and this will be confirmed by HT.

## **Arrangements for liaison with catering staff**

Contact details are shared between HT and Catering Supervisor. In the event of school closure to children, catering staff who are able to walk safely to school will make their way to Newtongrange. Where a closure lasts more than one day, parents/carers of pupils entitled to free school meals will receive a BACS payment. Where possible, schools should provide packed lunches if children are leaving early and before lunchtime.

## **Procedures for school closure, including provision for the care of pupils who cannot be sent home**

If the school needs to close during the school day, families will be contacted through the text messaging service. Families will be advised which door they should come to collect their child. Arrangements for staff to make their way home safely will begin in a systematic and safe way.

Activities specific to levels have been created for children to access from home. Staff need to ensure that children have access to their Google Classroom.

## **Arrangements for coping with a reduced staffing complement**

Support staff and SLT will support classes. Classes may need to combine to ensure that there is appropriate support for children. HT will oversee organising of cover and will be aware of class numbers.

## **Learning at home**

If children are prevented from coming to school due to adverse weather conditions, Newtongrange Primary School will move to a Remote Learning platform. Remote learning is the term being used to describe when learners and teachers are not physically present together in the traditional classroom environment. As a school, we will continue to support our children's learning and provide planned activities and resources via Google Classroom and Seesaw

## **Learning Expectations**

Teachers and ELC staff will provide Remote Learning Grids for their classes which will have range of activities on them. These should include:

- Learning activities linked to core areas of the curriculum Health and Wellbeing, Literacy and Numeracy.
- Learning across the curriculum activities which could be linked to interdisciplinary project or stand alone activities.
- Tasks should be accessible online via Google Classroom or Seesaw as not all learners will have a printer to have a paper copy.
- Creative activities should be open ended, allowing learners to use resources which they have access to at home and do not require purchasing anything to be able to complete the activity.
- Activities and tasks which are handed in should be marked by teachers and learners should receive high quality feedback including next steps in their learning.

Our remote learning programme to support learners during adverse weather will include:

### **ELC Setting**

- Upload 3 learning activities every day that parents can engage their children in. The activities will detail the intended learning and reference any required resources.
- A daily video message from a member of the ELC team.
- Share a story, pre-recorded by a member of the ELC team. Stories will have a grid of suggested learning activities to go along with it.
- Share other exciting opportunities such as a rhyme of the week, a recipe to try at home or an ECO challenge.
- Throughout the week, we encourage children to share their remote learning through Seesaw and receive feedback from ELC staff.

### **P1 and P2**

- Upload a daily learning grid on to Seesaw. The learning grid will detail intended learning, activities, learning prompts and reference required resources or web links.
- Teaching input will be uploaded in a format which best suits the learning intentions such as: a written explanation or PowerPoint; a link to a video/audio clip; a recorded lesson made by the class teacher or a demonstration of how to carry out a task or procedure.
- Through Google Meet have a daily 'live' check in with each class. The link to access the Google Meet for each class will be posted on Seesaw. Children will require their Glow Login details to join the check in.
- Share a story with the children which will be pre-recorded for children to choose when they would like to listen to it.
- If any parents have any questions or require support with Remote Learning, you can contact teachers through our school email account at [newtongrange.ps@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:newtongrange.ps@midlothian.gov.uk)

### **P3-P7**

- Upload the daily learning grid on to Google Classrooms. The learning grid will provide an overview of the intended learning, detailing the activities, learning prompts and reference required resources or web links. The learning tasks will be uploaded into clearly labelled folders, Literacy, Numeracy, Learning Across the Curriculum and Other Activities.
- Teaching input will be uploaded in a format which best suits the learning intentions such as: a written explanation or PowerPoint; a link to a video/audio clip; a recorded lesson made by the class teacher or a demonstration of how to carry out a task or procedure.

- The Google Classroom should only be used for the purpose of teaching and learning. There is a classroom stream where teachers will post announcements, including their weekly learning grid. Children can use this stream to ask questions and discuss learning tasks. This is not compulsory and is up to individual choice. Children are reminded to follow the Remote Learning Code of Conduct when using this feature.
- Every day, provide a daily 'live' check-in with each class through Google Meet. The link to access the Google Meet will be posted within Google Classrooms. Children will need to be logged into their Glow account to join the check-in.
- If any parents have any questions or require support with Remote Learning, you can contact teachers through our school email account at [newtongrange.ps@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:newtongrange.ps@midlothian.gov.uk)