Inclement Weather Policy – Families

In the event of inclement weather, we ask that you email us at office@archfieldhousenursery.co.uk and wait for Managers to determine what the current situation is with regards to the nurseries hours of operating or call if absolutely necessary after 8am. We will utilise our 'Famly' platform service to keep families informed of our plan for the day. Where possible, we will contact the local radio stations so that they can announce whether we are open or not.
We will aim to have the following procedure in place;
From 8am we will provide care for those parents who consider childcare essential on that day e.g. those who work in the emergency services. We will *aim* to be fully operational by 10am provided we have enough staff to cover our legal ratios.
On occasions the nursery may have to close sometimes at short notice, due to the extreme weather conditions or in the case of an emergency. We know it is difficult for some parents when we have to make a decision to close on the day and we are conscious of the problems it causes. When poor weather is forecasted by the media, we ask parents to make early preparations for child care if they work, in case we have to close. The decision to close is not taken lightly, but with consideration for the safety of the children and staff.
To ensure the safety of our children, staff and parents we may need to close early, e.g. 4pm, if further adverse weather is forecast to ensure everyone can get home safely.

- We ensure that the staff living nearest the nursery are key holders and can open up the nursery in time for 8am.
- We have a system in place where those staff that live locally can come into the nursery quite quickly and change their shift so that they cover while others travel to the nursery. Staff generally do not live in the locality and are more reliant on transport.
- In exceptional circumstances the nursery may maintain staff ratios by asking parents to stay with their child/children until the next staff member arrives.
- To maintain our staffing levels within the nursery we have a procedure to follow and should there be any events of staff absence. We also use bank staff to cover the absences, if this will help us to stay open.
- It is important to remember that some members of staff have to travel considerable distances and may be advised not to make the journey in severe weather conditions. We will endeavour to have as many staff as possible at the nursery when this situation occurs.
- As per Archfield and Woodland House Nursery terms and conditions 'if it is, in our reasonable opinion, necessary or in the interest of the child to do so, we may close the nursery. In these circumstances, e.g. closure due to severe weather conditions or health pandemic we will charge you for the time that the nursery is closed.'
- Breakfast club and stay late sessions will be cancelled in the event of snow which there will mean there will be no charge if it has been previously arranged.
- When the nursery stays open despite snow and ice, the nursery also need to take account of the health and safety of staff, parents and children. Playgrounds

and the surrounding area can quickly become dangerous, and it is important that the nursery considers if it is safe to open for families, and ensure parents are aware of the risks.

- Where it is deemed safe for the children (following a risk assessment) we encourage staff to take the children out to play in the snow. Parents are asked to provide suitable clothing for the children.