

February 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

### **School Closure in Severe Weather**

Within the context of ensuring the effective education of our students, the intention is to keep the school open. However, the Academy realises that there are circumstances where on Health & Safety grounds the school will be forced to close.

#### **High Risk**

Extreme snow overnight affecting all London areas including Thamesmead. Traffic warnings not to travel. A decision will be taken as close to 6am as possible and broadcast on the website.

#### **High to Medium Risk**

Extreme snow overnight affecting surrounding London areas but less heavy in Thamesmead. Traffic warnings not to travel unless necessary. This decision will be dependent on whether students can walk safely to school and whether the majority of staff in areas less affected can travel safely. A decision will be taken as close to 6am as possible and broadcast on the website.

If open the Academy may not be able to offer full educational provision owing to reduced staffing beyond our control.

#### **Low Risk**

Light snow. Safe to walk and travel. No traffic warnings. It is our intention to remain open.

#### **Deteriorating Conditions During the Day**

If heavy snow falls in the locality during the day we reserve the right to close the school early. In this circumstance we will make announcements on the school's website, text parents and notify the local authority. Given the recent warnings parents/carers are asked to ensure suitable alternative arrangements are in place for students who may need to return home early. Where necessary, staff living in the locality will remain on site to ensure that any student who cannot leave early for any reason is supervised until the end of the school day.

#### **Priority to Primary**

On health and safety grounds, priority will be given to keeping the primary school open on the first day of snow. This particularly applies to the high to medium risk or if conditions deteriorate during the day. This is on the basis that the majority of children live locally and/or are not capable of independent travel.

In staying open, the primary school may not be able to offer full educational provision but be largely supervisory.

Continued ...

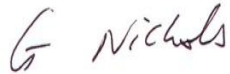
**In the Event of Closure:**

In the event of extreme snow, the site will remain closed until the site is safe and local roads are passable but re-open as soon as practically possible.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs C Moon  
**Executive Principal**



Mr G Nichols  
**Headteacher Secondary**



Mr A Nicholas  
**Consultant Headteacher  
Primary**