



Student Name / Form:

Mary Webb School & Science College, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY5 0TG

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7th December 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

With the Met Office forecasting severe weather for this area tomorrow, I felt it an opportune moment to remind families of the procedures for forced closure or alterations to school transport arrangements.

Making a decision about school closure is generally a fine judgment. As a rural school, with over 70% of students travelling by bus, some from very remote areas, the judgment is that much more difficult to make. Hindsight is the only method of getting the decision right on every occasion!

The key factors in deciding whether or not to close the school, either before school or during the day, are:

- The safety of students in and around the school site;
- The safety of students travelling to and from the school - bus companies make their own risk assessment with regard to the safety of each particular route;
- The extent to which staff can travel safely to school - only a small number of the teaching staff live locally;
- The weather forecast at the time a decision is made - we pay particular attention to the probability attached to the specific weather forecast from the Met Office.

If we decide to close before the start of school, we will endeavour to make a decision before 7.30 am and communicate this via Radio Shropshire, the school website - [www.marywebbschool.com](http://www.marywebbschool.com) and the Shropshire Council website [www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-closures/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-closures/).

If we have to close the school during the school day, we will post information on the school website, notify Radio Shropshire and send a text message via the ParentMail service. School transport will be arranged to collect students at the nominated closure time. We will, of course, supervise students collected by car until parents arrive. Closure during the school day is likely to be as a result of concerns about coach travel home.

If a decision is made to close the school, teaching staff, where possible, will attach work, to the school's Show My Homework site. This can be accessed via the school website. Students have the necessary usernames and passwords to access their accounts.

I trust that the forecasts of heavy snow moderate over the next few hours and that this letter becomes just a necessary precaution.

Thank you in expectation of your support.

Yours sincerely

Mr A J Smith  
Head Teacher