



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Monday 8th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: School Closure Procedure and Expectations - Reminder Letter

Given the moderate rain warning in our area for this evening and most of tomorrow, and the levels of standing water already on the roads currently, I am writing to remind you of the procedure and expectations in place, should the decision be taken to close the school.

Any decision to close is never an easy one to make, but for me will always come down to two key factors:

- The ability to maintain the safety of students, staff and families in our community (this includes travel to/from school)
- The ability to maintain the quality of education we can deliver

...in that priority order.

Currently there are no plans to close the school tomorrow because of the adverse weather warning in place – we expect to be open as normal.

Experience has shown that forecasts have struggled to be accurate though! Our pinch points are the Lopen Road, the A30 to Yeovil and colleagues travelling from Axminster – if these routes become impassable it's likely that we won't have enough staff onsite by 8.30am to start the day, and therefore a decision to close the school would need to be considered.

As explained in previous correspondence when a weather warning is in place, I don't see a 'late' or delayed start to the day as a beneficial alternative, as this will still generate a similar amount of disruption to parents and staff, and there may be colleagues and students that regardless of this delay to the day, still can't get in.

Please see below a reminder of how parents will be informed if the decision to close the school is made, along with how learning will be maintained remotely.

We're hopeful that even if the forecast is accurate, roads will remain passable with care, and it's 'business as usual' again tomorrow. As ever, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Richard Burgas
Headteacher



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School Closure Procedure and Remote Learning Expectations

How will we inform parents/carers if there is a need to close the school?

Whenever there may be reasonable uncertainty as to whether the school is open, or if a decision to close the school is made, a message confirming whether the school is open or closed will be displayed on our website and sent out to parents, students and staff via the Arbor app by 7.30am in the morning.

If the decision is taken to close the school during the day, the same message system above will apply, with the message being sent to parents once the decision to close has been made.

It is important that parents have given consent, should they wish, to enable students to be dismissed and make their way home on days when the school is closed during the day. A reminder how to give consent has been sent via the Arbor app.

What learning will take place if the school is closed during the day?

If the school is closed during the school day, work will be completed to ensure students and staff are dismissed as quickly and safely as possible. No remote learning will take place.

What learning will take place if advance notice is given of a school closure day?

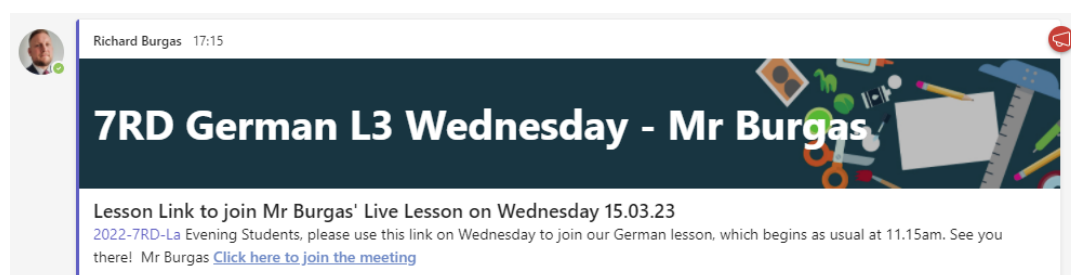
On the day of closure, students will follow their timetable remotely and access work provided by their teachers on Teams.

Teachers will 'live' launch the first 10 minutes of the lesson and remain online during the lesson to give feedback and guidance to students.

The normal timings of the day will be followed, with gaps between lessons for comfort breaks, as well as the morning break and longer break at lunchtime. Students will remain at home and access learning remotely through Teams. They will follow their normal timetable for the day.

Staff will share a link to their lesson in the Teams channel for their class. This will be posted as a message to alert students that the lesson is taking place, with a hyperlink that joins them to the live lesson.

The image below is an example of this – this was my link sent to 7RD German on a previous closure day.



Students should click on the link, where they will then be admitted to the lesson by the teacher. Where a member of staff is absent due to illness, no link will be posted, and we are unable to provide work for this lesson.

What is the format of live lessons? How will my child be taught?

The class teacher will be available to respond to questions from students throughout the lesson.

The structure we use is the 10-40-10 model.

- Teachers will deliver a 10min introduction to the group,
- then give them roughly 40mins to complete the task(s) set,
- then bring the class back together for feedback in the final 10mins.
- During the main body of the lesson, cameras and microphones will be off and muted, with the teacher directing students to raise questions and make comments using the 'raise hand' and 'chat' features in Teams – this provides help and support for everyone participating.
- Teachers will remain online throughout the lesson to answer questions raised and give support/guidance if needed.

Work may be set as an assignment so that students can complete and return it to their teacher.

What are the expectations regarding behaviour for live learning?

We understand that live learning can seem daunting. Staff will be adapting lessons to make them accessible to students. We ask that all students join the lesson with their camera on, but mic muted, for the initial 10min introduction. This enables the teacher to meet and greet students and settle the group.

Students should use the 'raise hand' feature in Teams to request support or ask a question. The chat feature should only be used for conversations about the lesson. Staff will monitor students' responses and give praise and warnings as they would normally in any classroom.

If deemed necessary, staff may remove a student from the live lesson if their behaviour is having a negative impact on the learning and/or well-being of others.

Is written work being sent home for students that have no internet access?

It is not possible to provide written copies of the live lessons being delivered – instead students requiring written work can work from their Knowledge Organiser, testing themselves against the core knowledge and definitions for the subjects they would have had.

Does any written work completed remotely need to be handed in? Will it be marked?

Written work completed remotely can of course be handed in. Staff are happy to give feedback regarding the quality and accuracy of any work completed.

If students don't attend the live lessons, do they get marked absent?

No, they will not be marked as absent. As the school site is closed to students, attendance will be recorded universally to reflect this – students will not be penalised.

What if I am unable to supervise my child or do not agree with them learning in this way?

It is our responsibility to consider the best way we can provide learning during periods of disruption and ensure that provision is made – we feel we have done this, based on both feedback from parents and what we are able to deliver.

Live lessons are the best way forward.

That said, although we would hope parents are supportive and would want learning to continue, it is for parents to decide what they want their child to do on these days.

Richard Burgas
08.12.25