Old Newton School Closure Procedure Updated: September 2026

What could cause an emergency closure?

On occasions it may be necessary for school to close during the school day i.e. if the weather is deteriorating and there is doubt as to whether children can be returned home later in the day. In such cases schools need to ensure that children are collected from school. The school emergency management plan may also apply

The school would only need to close:

- If adverse conditions result in a failure of the heating system or other key utility, resulting in school being unfit for reasonable use.
- If adverse conditions result in difficulty for members of staff getting to school, which could cause an insufficient number to provide adequate care for the children.
- If the safety of the building / site or access to it was compromised.

The decision to close is not taken lightly and is based on a clear risk assessment of the situation in the context of advice received regarding weather reports, road clearance and utility issues.

How would we communicate an emergency closure to parents?

In the event of a closure, our primary aim is to communicate this to parents as soon as possible.

- We will in the first instance, email all parents via Arbor and aim to do this by 7.45am
- The school website will be updated, to show the closure.

We would ask that in the event of adverse weather conditions that you check your emails and politely ask that you do not phone the school for this information, as in the event of adverse weather there may be no one to answer your calls.

If the closure is known the day before, then emails and Dojo messages as well as a notice outside school would be used.

It is of course worth remembering that this procedure would be used for any emergency closure, not just as a result of snow eg a burst water main or a complete heating failure.