

Dear Parents/Carers

Fishermoss School Adverse Weather Arrangements

Aberdeenshire has a clear presumption in favour of keeping establishments open whenever practicable and safe to do so, in order to minimise the impact on learning provision and associated community impact.

Should the school be closed, or should there be a delayed opening, the information will be posted on Aberdeenshire Council's website. Should I be unable to access the Aberdeenshire website due to power failures etc. I will contact Northsound Radio to add us to their broadcast.

There are three methods for informing parents/carers of school closure/delayed opening:

1. **Aberdeenshire Website-School Closures and Transport Changes** is updated daily on days of adverse weather-contact details below:
Aberdeenshire website <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/Schools-Closures/>
2. **Northsound Radio** uses the information from the Aberdeenshire website for their broadcast.
3. **School texting facilities, i.e. Groupcall:**

Please do not attempt to call the School to establish if we are to be closed.

If the school is forced to close during the course of the school day, parents will be contacted by group text message or telephone. We know it is tempting to call Fishermoss School directly to establish if we will be closing early but please avoid doing this as we need to keep the line free for other essential calls. If it is not possible to contact parents, the school will contact your named emergency contact. No child will be released from school without arrangements being made with an appropriate adult. It is important that contact, and emergency contact, details are current and the people named are available-particularly during bad weather. If there are any changes to your contact details, then please do update these as a matter of urgency via **Parents Portal**. If you are not signed up to Parents Portal, then please contact the school office for assistance to do so.

Where **school transport** is not running, please do not take your child(ren) to school yourself, unless it is safe to do so. If you do take your child(ren) to school, you must also be able to collect them at the end of the day.

Learning Activities for pupils are available on our website by going to the tab 'Parents' and selecting 'Home Learning Links' from the drop-down menu.

As a Head Teacher, making school closure decisions in adverse weather is without question stressful and my least favourite responsibility. It is never clear cut and is always an inconvenience to everyone concerned. I do my best to reach a decision as early as possible, but I am required to establish a number of factors before a school closure decision can be made. Our teaching staff stay across Aberdeenshire and therefore it is not only the local weather conditions in Portlethen that have to be taken into consideration. Conditions can also change in a very short space of time and the weather forecasters do not always get it right, as indeed I won't either! I make the decision if and when the school closes but ultimately parents must decide if it is safe for their child to travel to school, be it by family car or on foot.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kindest regards

Margaret M. Ferguson
Head Teacher

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Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children's Services



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