

SNOW NEWS

Happy New Year and welcome back to school. I didn't expect the first newsletter of the term to be just about the weather, but in the light of last couple of days, it has become essential.

After two weeks away from school for the Christmas break, none of us were expecting that the holiday would have been extended. We hope you and your children enjoyed the extra time, but we apologise for the inconvenience the snow days would inevitably have caused working parents. Please be assured that we do our utmost to keep the school open at all times; on this occasion, the condition of the roads and the school site would have posed an health and safety risk for all.

The methods we have used to inform you about school closures seemed to have been successful. The Local Authority website lists all school closures as does the Heart FM website. Information is available on the school website (www.hanslopeschool.co.uk) and parents who have subscribed to the instant messaging service (access this at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schoolclosures) from the Local Authority have had texts within a number of minutes of the information going live online (apologies for the error today). All of this information I aim to have available by 7.30am at the latest. In the event of future closures, please continue to use the options above.

Despite the forecast for Sunday evening, it should be business as usual on Monday, but please check the website regularly for any updates. Teachers have today set additional tasks for your children to complete at home in the event of a closure next week. Some pupils will be able to complete these tasks via the Virtual Learning Environment.

Whilst there is still snow on the ground, please can you ensure that your children bring/wear the following:

- Coat, hat and gloves
- Wellies or boots
- Change of footwear
- An extra pair of socks/tights
- A carrier bag to store any clothing that has become wet.

For children who have hot meals, we have been advised today by the Local Authority to inform parents that refunds cannot be issued if pupils bring in packed lunches and meals are still delivered. As a school, we felt it to be in the best interest of the children to have an alternative plan, hence our advice to bring a packed lunch in even if a meal has been ordered. Despite our two days absence, we believe that Cygnet will be able to cater for Hanslope's meal orders next week.

Should you have any questions or queries about our procedures, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you all a pleasant weekend,

Debbie Doherty
Headteacher

8th January 2010