

When bad weather is expected or arrives unexpectedly

Bad weather (particularly snow) is a rare event for Fitzharrys pupils. However when it comes it is disruptive and can cause anxiety and stress. Understandably, many parents ring the school if snow starts falling heavily. **Please be patient in this event and use the school website which we will endeavour to have the latest updated information on it.** In extreme circumstances, when very bad weather is predicted or has broken out, the school will allow pupils to call their parents. Such calls must always have prior approval of a teacher and be made in a supervised environment.

Decisions about closing the school or sending pupils home early are always difficult to make. We need to gather reliable information before making a judgement. We check weather reports, get advice from the bus companies, and try to assess what is happening elsewhere in the area. Some buses may not be available. Operators have to decide whether running vehicles on particular routes in snow and ice is too high a risk. Drivers are rarely available at times other than scheduled school runs. That is why schools often take their lead from the bus companies when deciding what to do.

The decision to close the school will be made by the Headteacher in consultation with site staff, the Chair of Governors and any available Local Authority Officer.

Information relating to the closure will be relayed to:

- BBC Radio Oxford
- Oxfordshire County Council

Closures are announced during the breakfast shows on BBC Radio Oxford (95.2 FM), Heart FM (102.6 or 97.4 FM), Glide (107.9 FM), Banbury Sound (107.6 FM) and Jack FM (106.8 FM).

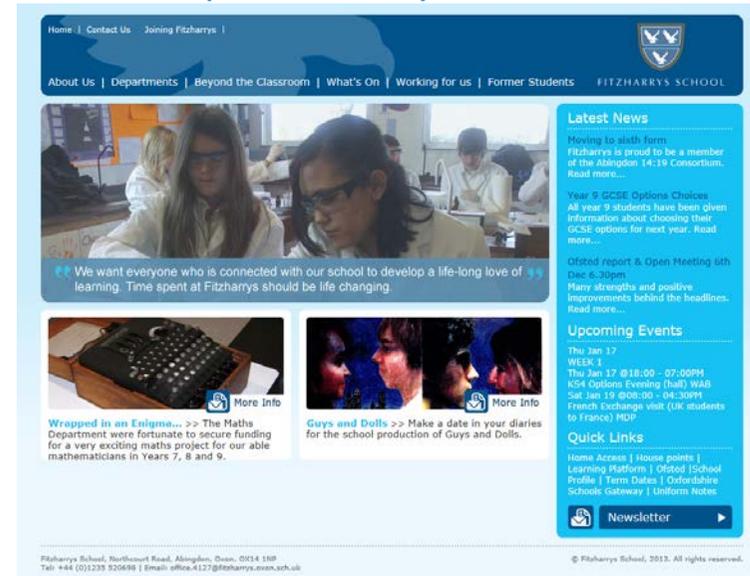
If snow occurs **during the day** there are three possible decisions to be made by the Headteacher:

- keep school open
- send children and staff home early;
- close school the next day (staff to attend if possible)

This decision will be based on the risks involved to students in travelling home and the probability of large numbers of staff (in particular) and students not being able to reach school the next day.

The Fitzharrys School website will be regularly updated.

<http://www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk/>



If the weather deteriorates during the school day

The decision to close the school will be taken in consultation with the Chair of Governors (if available), bus companies and senior team. The pupils will be informed that school will close. Information will be relayed to radio stations and the school's web site. School transport will be coordinated with local bus companies for any early closure. Students must not leave school until released by the Headteacher.

Pupils who have not made contact with a family member will not be permitted to leave the school. We will keep the pupils safe until permission is granted to release them.