

8 January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Adverse Weather and School Closure Procedure

First of all, I need to assure you that the school will only close if the building is not safe or routes home for children are threatened, i.e., bridges closed or routes flooded.

Closure before the start of the school day due to severe weather

If we were to close the school before school starts, we will inform you in the following ways:

1. A message will appear on the school's website (www.tiverton.devon.sch.uk) and social media (Facebook@TivertonHighSchoolDevon) by 7:30 am each day (although we will aim to be sooner) and we will update the website and social media with information, as soon as possible, during the day.
2. A text message will be sent to parents/carers by or shortly after 7.30am. Please ensure we have the correct mobile numbers for you as this is the most effective and efficient way that we can communicate with you.

Closure during the school day

Our priority is to keep all students calm and safe, therefore, please follow these instructions so we can keep the students calm and reassured that they are safe. DO NOT phone and/or text your child(ren) as it causes them alarm and other children to panic.

If for any reason weather forces us to close during the school day, we will inform you in the following way:

1. We will put information on our website and social media. We will send you a text message. This message will direct you to the school website which is where we will put all advice and/or instructions. Again, please do not text or phone your child at this point as it will cause panic and over-excitement. I have attached a flow chart which I hope will reassure you about what will happen. We do need to do things in an orderly and safe fashion, which I know you will appreciate.
2. Normally the school buses will arrive early to ensure that students who catch the bus are able to get home. This is at the bus company's discretion, and we will liaise with Devon County Council about this and will let you know if this is the case.
3. Please let us know if your child is not able to make their way home independently or if they are only allowed to leave with a parent or carer. Please make sure students sign out if you collect them. You will need to wait in Reception while we collect your child(ren); please be patient as we will be doing all we can.
4. As most of our students are able to walk to and from school, we will stay open for as long as we possibly can and, although there may not be enough teachers to teach lessons, we will provide supervised activities, so that students can remain in school even though normal lessons will be

Bolham Road, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 6SQ**T:** 01884 256655**E:** admin@tiverton.devon.sch.uk**W:** www.tiverton.devon.sch.uk

Learn Together. Grow Together. Succeed Together.



disrupted. This is to allow parents and carers the comfort of knowing their children are safe and supervised.

5. If it becomes clear, in the unlikely event of extreme and dangerous weather, that we are forced to close we will post this on the website, social media and message parents and carers via text message. We will provide a safe place for students to wait, and this will be the main hall. I do not envisage this being anything but very unusual.

Everything reasonably possible will be done to ensure children's safety and well-being.

Unless you do receive information from the school, please assume that the school will be open as usual. In times of adverse weather, students are permitted to wear suitable footwear (e.g. wellington/walking boots (if you have them), trainers) on the way to and from school but will need to bring their school shoes to change into once in school. In emergencies such as school closure, the drive to the school will be closed.

Thank you for your support with this. Our intention is to ensure all students are safe and are not alarmed in any way.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Lamb', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr J Lamb
Headteacher