



Dear Parents and Carers,

28th February 2018

I just wanted to write to you following the weather situation and associated decisions to close the school.

Making this decision and evaluating all of the variables is one of the most difficult things to do as a Headteacher. We want to maximise learning at all times, but we have to balance this with safety of students, staff, and parents.

This morning we were in the situation where heavy snow between 6am and 8am rendered 12 teachers unable to get to school when they attempted their journey. Our staff live in quite a wide radius around Haverhill and those in villages, living closer to Colchester, Sudbury and Bury St Edmunds in particular were affected. The late decision to close wasn't ideal, but took into account the rapidly changing situation.

Following further snowfall today I have just been back in to school to look at the site and it is not suitable or safe for children tomorrow. I will be meeting our site team at 9am tomorrow and looking again at the weather forecast. We will do our best to be open on Friday and will update the website and twitter.

Some students will be worrying about World Book Day as this was due tomorrow. We will be finding another day to mark this event and will join up with any other local schools who are closed tomorrow to make it a special event!

There were Year 11 BTEC and VCERT exams scheduled for a very few children, these are able to be rescheduled and our exams officer will be working on this tomorrow and will ensure that students are informed of the new date.

Thank you all for your support, if you would like to contact me please email me on VWhitcombe@castlemanor.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Vanessa Whitcombe

Headteacher

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