



7 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to you about the closure of school this morning as a result of the continuing difficult weather conditions. We understand that the decision taken to close this morning was a late one and we would like to sincerely apologise for any inconvenience or difficulty this may have caused. The decision on whether to open or close in these circumstances is never an easy one to make. There are a large number of factors that have to be weighed when doing so, many of which extend beyond simply the education we provide to your child.

As well as our duty as a school to provide an education to our pupils, we are also a safe, warm space for many children. A place where their wellbeing can be safeguarded and they can receive a warm meal and the care of staff when they and their families may be facing difficult circumstances. It is for these reasons that we always seek to open our doors when we have poor weather conditions, such as those we are experiencing at present.

Our dedicated site team and a number of other senior staff began assessing conditions on site on Sunday 5 January 2025 ahead of our return from the Christmas break. We made the early decision to close on Monday 6 January 2025, as it was clear we would not be able to clear the amount of snow that had fallen over the weekend and then early on Monday morning. Despite our closure on Monday, our site team remained on site for a large amount of the day, clearing snow and ice and salting and gritting our car parks and walkways. Our site team were then once again back on site this morning at 5.00am re-salting the grounds in order to attempt to allow for the normal opening of school. These efforts appeared to have worked, but as is often the case when salting and gritting after snowfall, ice can re-form quickly despite appearing to have been cleared, particularly with the cold temperatures which persist at the moment.

By the time other staff started to arrive at school, it became clear that our best efforts had not been successful and the decision was taken that we would have to close school again today. We began communicating this decision to parents via a text message sent just after 7.40am and information was also posted on Bradford Schools Online and our social media channels.

It has become apparent from some communication we have received from a small number of parents that our text message did not immediately reach some of you this morning. We sincerely apologise for this and we are looking into this with our network provider. However, it is not immediately clear to us why this would have been the case but we are sorry if that text did not reach you before you had begun your own journey to school. We have taken on board the feedback we have received about the issues that occurred this morning and will factor this into future decision making.

We would encourage parents to follow our social medial channels – you can become a member of The Appleton Academy Official Facebook Page and follow us on Bluesky via @appletonacademy.bluesky.social. We also post information about school closures on Bradford Schools Online: <https://bso.bradford.gov.uk/Schools/Home.aspx>

Together with our community we achieve extraordinary things



We will continue to update parents today via these channels, and text message, about our plans for the opening of school tomorrow. It is not our intention to cause inconvenience to parents and we make decisions based on the best information we have. However, when dealing with the weather, these decisions can change quickly. Despite this, we always endeavour to make decisions and communicate these in the best interests of pupils, parents, staff and visitors. We apologise once again if that has not been your experience this morning and we will quickly rectify any issues we become aware of that may have impacted upon this.

We would like to thank you for your continuing support and understanding and look forward to welcoming pupils back into school as soon as we can safely do so.

Yours faithfully

Ms H Jones
Executive Headteacher