

Harlow Inspirational Learning Trust (HILT)
The Henry Moore Primary School

Snow/Other Emergency School Closures
School Communications

Unfortunately the school has to be closed occasionally in emergency situations. I am reminding parents of the procedures and communication channels in the event of such a school closure.



Should the decision be made to close the school, we would communicate with parents via *Arbor* and the *school website*

Not via a radio station.

Please check these systems regularly.

Snow/Poor Weather School Closures

To clarify the reasons that schools are forced to make the decision to close in bad weather conditions. (The Press always appear to need some clarity on this!)

- Primarily it is to ensure **pupil safety**. If schools cannot guarantee that staff will be in before the beginning of the day, the situation in school will be unsafe for the children.
- Unlike other working environments, school staff coming in late because of travel difficulties poses a **serious safety issue for the children**. (There may not be anyone to look after them.)
- The school site may not be able to be made safe-despite huge efforts from staff
- As a secondary, though very important issue, schools would not want staff to put their personal safety at risk, not least since this could potentially affect children's learning in the longer term.

It is a very difficult decision to make to close a school. All schools want to remain open. Often the decision has to be made early on the day of the closure. However, if at all possible schools try to make the decision to close the day before to give parents/carers sufficient time to make arrangements. The decision is based upon weather forecasts, where school staff live, and what the risk is to children in keeping the school open-possibly understaffed. Every school's situation is different, as is every snow day-what is right for one school may not be right for another.

Please keep a close eye on the school's communication systems in the event of poor weather conditions.