

Severe Weather

“Schools should, wherever possible, stay open in severe weather. They play a key role in their communities and by staying open help both their pupils and parents.”

-Department for Education

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service.

The government has stressed the importance of schools remaining open, as closures have a knock on effect on parents/carers who are key workers in other areas of public sector, e.g. Health Services, thus undermining crucial service delivery. The overriding principle is, therefore, for schools to remain open to the maximum degree possible, as is consistent with health and safety requirements, even if it is not possible to run a full timetable.

If snow/ice results in hazardous conditions and our Head Teacher makes the decision to close the school, we will notify parents/carers via the Kent Closures website together with a text message and a message on the school website. To determine whether Laleham Gap School is open or closed, please visit www.kentclosures.co.uk and search for the school in the search box.

- ❖ Please visit www.kentclosures.co.uk
- ❖ Please visit the school website www.laleham-gap.kent.sch.uk
- ❖ Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/winter for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey
- ❖ Don't forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies, etc. or even a change of clothing
- ❖ If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates
- ❖ **It is your responsibility to assess the weather conditions to ensure that it is safe to travel. This includes the return journey. If you are in any doubt, then please do not put yourself or child at risk by travelling.**