



7/01/2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. My intention was to write to you at the end of the first week back to share all the positive developments at Forest Moor School. However, I find myself writing the first letter of the year to address the significant impact the weather has had on our school operations.

As you are aware, Forest Moor School is situated in a remote rural location at altitude, which often experiences its own unique microclimate. While this is beneficial to the nearby military communication stations, it presents considerable challenges for us as a Special School.

On Monday, we were faced with heavy snow and ice, which prevented the gritting company from accessing the roads leading to the school. Consequently, they were unable to clear the school grounds. Despite multiple attempts yesterday, the roads remained impassable. This morning, I reviewed the CCTV and noted that while the road had been partially cleared, the snow was piled in front of the school gates, creating a three-foot-high ice wall. The origin of this obstruction is unclear, and I am investigating whether it was caused by council contractors or another vehicle.

As of now, some members of our estates team have cautiously accessed the school on foot by parking nearby and walking to the gates. They report that the road remains hazardous, with single-track access only, and the site is still covered by approximately one foot of snow, much of which has turned to ice. The school gates are now open, and we are awaiting contractors with JCB equipment to clear the ice wall and make the school grounds safe for walking and driving. While we are hopeful for a positive outcome by tomorrow, the forecast of temperatures as low as -10°C tonight presents additional challenges.

Our class leads have been in regular contact with families to provide work and updates for students during this closure. If you have not received any communication, please email the school so we can address this immediately. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this period of adverse weather. I will send an update via text to all primary contacts this evening regarding the plan for tomorrow. There are four possible outcomes to consider:

1. **School is open for all students as normal.**
2. **School is open for specific geographical regions for the normal school day.**
3. **School operates with a delayed start and/or early finish for all students to ensure safe transport.**
4. **School operates with a delayed start and/or early finish for specific geographical regions to ensure safe transport.**

Please note that in line with North Yorkshire's transport policy for severe weather, guardians must review and be familiar with the guidance provided at the following link: [North Yorkshire School Transport Severe Weather Policy](#).

Thank you once again for your understanding and support. We look forward to resuming normal school operations as soon as possible.

Kind Regards,

Mr Roberts

Principal

Forest Moor School

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