



SCHOOL CLOSURE IN BAD WEATHER

We hope that this year, we will be able to keep the school open *every day* in times of bad weather. Closing the school is a decision not taken lightly and only as a last resort. However, *just in case we do* need to close...

In the event of bad weather, the decision is taken if it is felt that we cannot provide a safe environment for the pupils and staff (e.g. if local side roads are hazardous to walk on). If the decision to close school is taken, a message will be sent to all parents who are registered with school. We aim to make a decision by **7.30am at the latest**. If you are not registered to receive ParentApp messages, please speak to our office team who will be able to advise you. We will also post a 'headline' message on our website homepage. In the past, we have found the decision to close school mirrors the decision taken by other local schools. School will also contact Bradford Schools Online ([click here](#)) to notify of the closure and they also organise for announcements on local radio.

Thank You

The introduction of our new 'side gate' has really helped the 'flow' of people. I wanted to thank you for your support in making our 1-way walking system a success.

Despite having the same number of parents and pupils, this feels much calmer and safer.

ParentApp

If you need to tell us about a medical condition which your child has or to provide consent for medication in school, this can now be completed on Parent APP.

You can also check if your child is eligible for Pupil Premium Funding (with £1,300 a year for additional support for your child).

Christmas

We will be making our school feel more Christmas-y next week. Thank you once again to our 'Friends of Hoyle Court' for their donation of a large tree for our school hall. All classes will be holding their Christmas parties, with children coming in party clothes. Your Child's Teacher will let you know when this is.

Santa may also be able to pay a visit in the final week. He is a very busy man – but we are hoping he can come and say hello to the children.

We will also be holding our

Christmas Jumper Day

11th December for Save the Children
All children can come dressed for Christmas!

Unfortunately this year we are requesting that children do not bring in Christmas cards. As you may be aware, infection can be carried on items for up to 3 days.

Whereas some parents may feel happy with sending and receiving cards into their home, we have to recognise that other may not.

Is your child starting school in September?

The deadline for applications for primary school places is **January 15th**

On our website homepage is

- our prospectus
- link to a **video tour of our school**
- A link to the Bradford Council page for school applications.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND):

It has nearly been a full term since I joined Hoyle Court and I have loved getting to know the children. I have even managed to meet a few parents/carers!

This term there has been a SEND focus on looking at needs across the school and ensuring that learning and support is in place for those that need it.

IDL has been re-introduced which is a programme to support literacy needs. Children will be accessing this via the iPads or a laptops.

Staff have been trained in Adverse Childhood Trauma and Attachment with a focus on how it affects learning and the different approaches that need to be used to create an inclusive classroom.

Please get in touch if you need advice or support for your child. I can signpost or provide you with resources for home:

a.robinson@hoylecourt.bradford.sch.uk

Useful websites:

<https://localoffer.bradford.gov.uk/>

[Family Action SEND support for families](#)

[BBC Bite size SEND support for parents/carers](#)

[Support, advice and resources for ADHD, PDA, anxiety and ASC](#)

If you need to get in touch...

Our office email is: office@hoylecourt.bradford.sch.uk

In the first instance please speak to your child's Teacher either by email or by telephone (so they can call you back). In addition, if emails are addressed for my attention, these will always be passed on to me so I can respond directly. I am on the playground most mornings and at the school gates at the end of most days if you ever want to catch me to discuss something.

Is your child in year 5 or 6?

The times of our lunchtimes have changed. Year 5 and 6 are now eating 30 minutes later than they used to – at 1.00pm. This is because all the children need 'staggered' lunchtimes so they can remain socially distanced outside. This is also so we can ensure all staff get a sufficient break in the middle of the day.

As year 5 and 6 are now eating slightly later, we are allowing them to eat a light snack at their tables at midday, should they choose. You may wish to talk to your child to see if they need a larger snack at morning break or a second one at midday – we leave this decision to you.

This is one of the many impacts of Covid19 – thank you for your understanding and support.

Closing on Fridays

I wanted to address some rumours that we were planning to close the school on Friday afternoons. Some schools have taken this decision - and I certainly make no judgement on this, as all schools face unique sets of circumstances.

This is something we have worked very hard to avoid. We really want children to be in school full-time, despite the massive pressures schools are currently under in terms of staffing. I thought this clarity would be welcomed.

Ordering Your Photos

School photo order forms will be sent home today with your child. Orders should preferably be made online.

Please make sure that photos are ordered within 7 working days and choose delivery to school for free post & packing.

Late orders or home delivery incur a £5 post & packing charge.

We have started assemblies again... online

We were really missing the 'connection' we felt with having whole school assemblies. This week we held our first whole school assembly on Microsoft Teams, thankfully the technology worked. It felt really positive to once again celebrate the amazing children and outstanding learning we have in our school. All the children cheered as weekly winners were announced and we felt like a 'proper' school community again – it was lovely. We also now have 3 weekly class awards:

- Champion Learner
- Champion Reader
- 'Outstanding Learning Award'

These are also now made into a weekly PowerPoint and posted on our Twitter Feed and added to our website (under 'Children' drop down menu > 'Learning Celebrations'). If you want to know who won in each class, please take a look.