



St. Mary's C of E (Aided) Junior School
Silkham Road
OXTED
Surrey
RH8 ONP

Head teacher
Mrs S Lewis
Email: info@st-marys-oxted.surrey.sch.uk
www.st-marys-oxted.surrey.sch.uk

Tel: 01883 712817

28th February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the absence of a crystal ball and a magic wand I have been forced to come to a very human and very difficult decision to close St Mary's and Downs Way for the remainder of the week. We will reopen on Monday 5th March.

My teachers have been very professional and honest saying they could get into school on Thursday morning because they know that school closures have a disproportionate impact on our working parents. However, many travel some distance and have expressed anxiety about being able to get home again. If I had opened the school it was clear that they would put their professional responsibilities above their own personal safety.

On Tuesday the schools were inundated with phone calls from parents as soon as the snow started to fall. A very high proportion of parents chose to collect children early – actually setting out in cars in the worst of the snow.

The forecasts have been highly accurate this week – and the forecast is for continuous snow throughout Thursday - starting light and getting heavier.

Because we have such support from our school community, and you place value on your children's education and the commitment of the staff I am aware that families may feel a pressure to send their children to school if we are open, when their instinct would be that it was not really safe to do so.

My heart wants to keep the school open – but my head says that a decision to close is the only safe option.

Thank you for your understanding

Best wishes

Sarah Lewis

At St Mary's, everyone is supported, challenged and secure in a caring Christian environment

