

10th December 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

We approach the end of a very busy and long autumn term and I am delighted to be able to inform you that the Education Funding Agency has announced the winning bidder for the Midlands batch of the Priority Schools Building Programme. Carillion have been appointed as the contractor that will build our new school and we will start working closely with them in the New Year. More detailed information of the new build can be found in the autumn newsletter, due to be delivered to you just after the Christmas holiday.

Whilst writing, I would like to share with you some more wonderful news. It's OFFICIAL; Phoenix students are NOW attaining grades above the Sandwell and National average. This is a huge achievement and just reward for the hard work and determination shown by our students, parents, teachers, leadership team and governors alike. Find out more by visiting the school website.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please don't forget that we will be breaking up for Christmas on Friday 19th December at 12.50 p.m. (reception at 1.30pm) and we will re-open to students on Wednesday 7th January 2015 at the usual time. These details are also available on the school website.

As we approach the winter, I thought it would be helpful to clarify the procedures for school closure in case of extremely bad weather. Can I stress that it is our policy to remain open unless we are forced to close because there is a risk to the health, safety and welfare of staff and pupils. In consultation with the Chair of Governors, I am responsible for making the decision to close the school due to inclement weather conditions **in the immediate locality**.

How parents will be notified that the School will be closed

School closure due to poor weather conditions is very rare and will be avoided where possible. In some cases we may decide to open later than normal to allow time for the site to be made safe, again this will be announced on the radio and the school website. There is no need for parents to contact the school to check whether or not the school is open. Unless we announce otherwise on local radio, the school website, Facebook and/or twitter **the school will be open**.

School Closure Procedures:

If the school is to be closed, there will be an announcement on the following radio stations to state this: Radio WM

Free Radio Birmingham
Heart FM/Capital FM
Free Radio Black Country

Additionally this announcement will be posted on the school website (www.aspirebelievesucceed.com), Facebook and Twitter. Details will also be posted on the Local Authority website.

a. If the school is closed BEFORE the start of School Day

Please refer to the procedures outlined above.

b. If the school closes DURING the School Day

Should the weather turn worse during a school day, pupils will only be sent home if there are satisfactory arrangements for them to return safely. Should any parent/carer wish to make any alternative arrangements for their child in these circumstances please put these in writing to myself.

The school will inform West Midlands Travel and individual transport providers to ensure that adequate arrangements are in place for students to return home safely if they make use of public transport.

While we understand parental concerns, it would be helpful if parents/carers were mindful of the difficulty for an office potentially responding to literally hundreds of calls and so would request that parents/carers do not telephone the school at these times unless there is an emergency.

I recognise how important it is to regularly communicate with our parents/carers and so would encourage you to regularly check the website for information, and of course follow us on Facebook, twitter or via the app. We regularly publish news articles and information via social media so that you are up to date and well informed.

Finally, on behalf of the staff and governors, may I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Gary Hill
Head Teacher