

Dear Parent / Carers

On behalf of the school, I apologise for any inconvenience caused by the late notice of yesterday's closure.

The 3 schools in Horsham work closely together, and the 3 Headteachers agreed at 06:30 that our schools would be open, and this information was duly posted on The Forest School website. However, there is a critical number of staff needed in a school of over 1000 pupils, below which issues of health and safety become paramount. Unfortunately, by 07:45 it was clear that, because of the road conditions, too many staff were unable to get into school for us to run effectively and safely. After consultation with the Chair of Governors, I therefore made the decision to close the school.

I accept that this late notice will have caused some inconvenience with parents, for which I apologise. However, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Forest parents for not jumping on the media bandwagon - your good will, patient understanding and pleasant cooperation made a difficult morning all the easier.

Many of you have thanked the school for our clear communication via the website and telephone system. There is a procedure that all schools follow in such circumstances, which includes informing the local radio stations. May I reiterate the importance of referring to our website on such occasions - I believe some confusion was caused by Mercury FM saying at the start of the morning that the school was closed yesterday - unfortunately, there are 2 Forest Schools, so it's always worth checking on our website to be sure!

Finally, it is clear that the boys enjoyed themselves greatly following the worst snowfall this area has had for almost 2 decades - they may never see the like again as children. Such childhood memories are very precious to us as adults - I hope that those families who could were able to make the most of the "quality time" they had together.

Siobhan Denning
Headteacher