

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Last Thursday, it became very apparent sometime after 7.00am that the roads were in chaos and the snow was not going to ease off. The gritters and road clearers had not managed to get to even main arterial roads and the likelihood of girls and staff getting to school safely was limiting.

SNOW CAUSES SCHOOL CLOSURE

So for the first time in as long as the longest serving staff can remember, the school closed for the day. Not all had a day off though: Lucy Raybould (Head's PA & Registrar), Lizzie Clark (Receptionist), Wendy Nuttall (Marketing Manager) and Henry Mason (Caretaker), all got in to manage the phones, and to ensure that girls who had braved the journey were warmed up before setting off home. As you can see from the front cover, they had some time to play too...

We face a dilemma when making a decision to close: These two notices appeared in my inbox on the same day:

'The Parents Outloud campaign group has argued that a bad example is set when schools are closed and children are allowed to remain at home when bad weather persists, because this could teach pupils a poor response which they might take into their future working life.'

Of course the national media focussed on the loss of 'working hours' caused because parents had to supervise children whose schools had closed.

And

'Although it may be inconvenient when staff can't get to work, employers should not risk putting employees in danger by encouraging them to drive in unsafe conditions in an attempt to get to work.'

I add in here the danger to parents and children. Parents know the conditions local to their homes, on their drives, off their estates/down their lanes - school does understand if you deem it unsafe to drive on such days, whether or not school is closed.

It seemed wise to me not to take the decision to close the evening before as the forecasting is not very localised and not always reliable. We endeavour to make a speedy assessment on the day and to inform parents as soon as possible via the school website and Trent FM (96.2FM) and BBC Radio Nottingham (103.8FM and 95.5FM) will both be informed on their snow line. The phone line at school will be staffed just as soon as the first member of the office or management arrives in school. There will be some occasions when regrettably, girls will have set off earlier than the notice in order to catch a bus or to beat the rush hour. For your reassurance, there will always be someone at school who will supervise girls until such a time as they can be collected.

It was with great delight that I interviewed all the prospective new entrants to Senior School. The questions largely concerned what girls like to do in their spare time, what they prefer at school and what they know about what's going on in the world. I had some astonishingly mature responses from some busy and talented young ladies. Hollygirt will be proud to have you!

Thank you to the 37% of parents who let Lucy know they had received their Holly Leaf by email. If you did not respond last time - but have received can you please email or phone in so we know our new systems work. (Press reply or email: lucyraybould@hollygirt.notts.sch.uk)