

Snow and Adverse Weather Policy

Our aim is to always keep Leaping Toads open, whatever the weather, but sometimes this just isn't possible.

At Leaping Toads we have an adverse weather policy in place to ensure our centre is prepared for all adverse weather such as snow, floods and heat waves.

If you have any questions at all, please speak to Simona Staputiene, Leaping Toads Head, who is happy to help.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

We take special measures to minimise any inconvenience caused to your family, and we will keep you informed so you know what's happening.

If adverse weather impacts on the ability for the centre to operate, we will advise and update parents/carers via:

- Email (the same one where invoices are sent)
- The website, www.ltlf.co.uk
- A sign on the school door (if possible)
- A recorded message on the school answer phone (if possible).

Parents: please ensure we have your most up-to-date contact details.

It is extremely important that we have your most up-to-date contact details. If the information we have is incorrect or missing, we won't be able to tell you if the centre is open, closed or offering a limited service, which could be very inconvenient for you. Please check your details with Leaping Toads Office during your next drop off/pick up.

SNOW

Snow may limit access to the school but if the children and staff are able to get in then we will make every effort to stay open to receive them.

We will only close the centre when:

- It is deemed dangerous for children and staff to travel to school;
- Access to school is deemed dangerous;
- There is a risk of children and staff being stranded at school;
- Temperature is suitable for the children when inside the centre.

The final decision on whether to open or close the centre will be taken by the Head.

No refunds will be issued for closure days due to snow. We ask that parents please refer to their signed Terms and Conditions in regard to charges associated with our Adverse Weather policy.

An adverse weather forecast means we have to keep our plans under constant review. If possible, a risk assessment will be carried out.

In the event of staff shortages due to snow:

We cannot and will not remain open unless the minimum correct adult-to-child ratio can be met (as per the Statutory Framework set out by Ofsted, point 3.31).

Therefore, if the centre opens and only a certain number of staff members are able to work on this day, unfortunately the children that we are able to accept on that day will be based on a first-come-first-served basis.

We will always aim to contact other staff members from our wider team and our bank staff members, but we are not able to go over the required adult-to-child ratio threshold. If this situation happens, we will call families who are due in this day and explain the situation.

The sending home of staff members:

Consequently, staff members will be sent home in order of distance or personal circumstances, but only as and when child-to-staff ratios are correct within the centre.

If the centre is open as normal and we have bad weather during the day:

A decision will be taken by the Head whether Leaping Toads should remain open, and for how long this might be, taking into account the safety of the children and staff. We will seek advice and follow in due course with the Local Schools and closures in the area.

The safety of everyone accessing the centre is the most important thing, and if we feel parents need to start collecting their children in order to get home safely, messages by telephone (SMS, Voice Call/Voice Mail) will be made to all parents to inform them of our decision.

We will contact all parents to arrange for collection of their child and will aim to give 2 hours notification, where possible, that children need to be collected. Children cannot be accommodated overnight at the centre, so parents must make every effort to collect their child, despite any challenging conditions.

The condition of the roads and pavements:

The winter weather brings an added risk of slips and falls for children in our centre on icy ground. We work hard to minimise this risk by having our own stock of salt and grit. The condition of the roads and pavements outside the school are not our responsibility but that of the Highways service.

- We are permitted to clear the pathways directly outside the building.
- We recommend a staggered or delayed arrival and pick-up to aid safety.
- Where possible parents/carers should (park and) walk.

Remember: even if a path appears to have been cleared and treated, it may still be slippery. **Please be extra careful!** We encourage all parents and visitors to be extremely cautious because, although main access routes will be treated, some areas may still be slippery. As long as we have made a reasonable attempt to keep our pathways clear, the company cannot be held liable for any injuries sustained on our premises.

Snow can be very exciting for the children and we like to be able to make these times fun for the children and incorporate learning opportunities. Most of the time travel and the operation of the centre can remain normal, but we ask that all parents understand the need for safety when faced with bad weather.

FLOODING

There is always a danger of flooding from adverse weather conditions or through the water/central heating systems. We cannot anticipate adverse weather; however we can ensure that we take care of all our water and heating systems through regular maintenance and checks to reduce the option of flooding in this way. Our central heating systems are checked and serviced by the Council's registered engineer ensuring they conform to appropriate guidelines and legislation.

If flooding occurs during the school day, the Head will make a decision based on the severity and location of this flooding, and it may be deemed necessary to follow the fire evacuation procedure. In this instance children will be kept safe and parents will be notified in the same way as the fire procedure. Should the centre be assessed as unsafe through flooding, fire or any other incident we will follow our operational plan.

HEAT WAVES AND SUNNY DAYS

Sun Care Policy

Leaping Toads is committed to ensuring that all children are fully protected from the dangers of too much sun. Severe sunburn in childhood can lead to the development of malignant melanoma (the most dangerous type of skin cancer) in later life.

Children's safety outside in the sun is the centre's prime objective so staff will work closely with parents to ensure all appropriate cream and clothing is provided.

We use the following procedures to keep children safe and healthy in the sun. Currently, this is relevant to any educational school trips or outdoor events. In the future (when we become a nursery/mainstream school) will be applicable to all lessons and any outdoor activity/breaks:

- Children are offered cooled water more frequently throughout sunny or warm days.
- Children are made aware of the need for sun hats, sun cream and the need to drink more fluids during their time in the sun.
- Staff will make day-to-day decisions about the length of time spent outside dependant on the strength of the sun.
- Shade will be provided to ensure children are able to cool down or escape the sun should they wish or need to.
- Children need light-weight cotton clothing suitable for the sun, with long sleeves and long legs if prone to sunburn.
- Children should always have sun cream applied before coming to the centre, before going outside in the sun and at frequent intervals during the day.
- In the future, once we have nursery status, smaller children must have their own high factor sun cream named and dated with prior written consent for staff to apply. This enables children to have sun cream suitable for their own individual needs.
- Children must have a clearly named sun hat which will be worn at all times while outside in sunny weather. This hat will preferably be of legionaries design (i.e. with an extended back and side to shield children's neck and ears from sun) to provide additional protection.