 **Winter Ready- Key messages for schools**

**As we prepare for the onset of Winter weather conditions, there are a few actions needed to help us prepare for everyone’s safe arrival and at the continuation of learning.**

• Parents and carers should ensure that their child’s school has up to date contact information for them in case the school needs to close.

• Groupcall is the way the school will inform parents and carers about closures, any change to arrangements and information about their child’s learning provision in Seesaw (ELC – P3) or Teams (P4-S6). This information will also be shared on the council’s website at <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/schoolclosures> and via social media channels.

• Parents/carers should make the decision on whether they feel it is safe for their child to travel to school in severe weather, depending on their individual circumstances. Parents/carers should contact the school as soon as possible if their child will not be attending school.

• A safe walking route from the school gate into main door of the school building will be cleared in snow or icy conditions. This will allow safe access for all. As the weather permits, the other routes will be cleared throughout the day.

• Parents/carers should not use the staff carparks to drop off or collect pupils. The area in front of the school should be kept clear to allow school transport to access the school. Please park safely in the roads around the school allowing the free flow of local traffic.

• In the event of school closure, pupils should continue to access learning activities through Seesaw (ELC – P3) and Teams (P4-S6) which are used regularly as part of the current learning provision in school. Parents should contact their child’s school if they need help accessing these platforms, or if help is required to access a suitable device.

• If your child develops vomiting and/or diarrhoea symptoms, please ensure they remain off school until they have been symptom free for at least 48 hours to avoid passing the illness onto others.

• More information is available at <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/47224/Winter-Ready-for-Schools>

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