**Severe Weather Conditions**

We would like to advise that whenever inclement weather occurs preventing the absolute safety of our nursery families and staff, My Little Barn Owls Childcare will close.

* If” local school" is cancelled due to poor weather and/or travel, this can also have force to close due to staffing and ratios.
* Liability reasons do not allow My Little Barn Owls Childcare staff to be transported to or from childcare via enrolled childcare families.
* It is your responsibility to have a backup plans or care.

**Notification of closure will be given as far in advance as possible.**

* In cases of severe weather conditions, if the weather deteriorates during the day, you may be asked to collect your child/ren early.
* If heavy snow falls overnight, please establish that the nursery is open before bringing your child.

**Updates will be available on our Facebook page and Famly where possible.**

* Should the nursery close for any of the above, please telephone to ensure that the nursery has re-opened before returning on the following day.
* In these circumstances the nursery will not refund any fees as weather conditions are beyond the control of the nursery.

**Staffing**

**Please note** – some members of staff have to travel considerable distances and may be advised not to make the journey to the nursery in severe weather conditions.  However, we will endeavour to have as many staff as possible at the nursery when this situation occurs.

**Forest School**

*At My Little Barn Owls, we believe children should experience learning in their environment no matter what the weather, however we understand that it is our responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children and adults.*

Our Forest School Leader and Health and Safety Officer is responsible to ensure local weather information is up to date before preparing/leaving the setting or deciding to cancel a Forest School session if the weather is poor.

The table below details the procedure and risk assessment undertaken by the Forest School Leader in the event of poor weather conditions:

**Factors that might prevent Forest schools’ sessions;**

* Snow still falling, freezing and slippery conditions.
* Heavy rain, forecast to continue, possible flooding.
* Wind High wind. Danger of falling branches and trees.
* Rumbles of thunder grow louder. Bolts of lightning visible in the distance.
* Too hot. Risk of sun stroke and heat exhaustion.

On joining My Little Barn Owls parents/carers are informed of our Forest School Approach and reminded to ensure their children arrive dressed appropriately for Forest School activities.

In the event that a child is dressed inappropriately for the weather condition we **cannot** provide any spare clothing or footwear other than the all in-one waterproof clothing My Little Barn Owls provides.

Before going on an outing, the Forest School Leader will ensure that children and adults are wearing appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather conditions.

In the event that the weather conditions worsen during a Forest School session, all children and adult will return to the setting.

If we are unable to return to the setting children’s parents/carers will be contacted and informed of our location to ensure children can be collected safely. Please see ‘Emergency Closure Policy and Procedure’.