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Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your patience and understanding during the disruption caused by the severe weather today. I am aware that some parents were concerned about the decision to delay the opening of the school, so I wanted to provide some clarity around how and why that decision was made.

As with our students, many of our staff travel significant distances to reach school each morning, including from areas such as Sidmouth, Dartmoor, Okehampton, and Plymouth. Staff are required to inform us of any travel issues by 7:20am. At that point this morning, we were only aware of one member of staff who was unable to get in.

However, as the morning progressed, traffic conditions deteriorated rapidly. It became clear that several more staff were becoming delayed or unable to travel safely, myself included. At that stage, we had to assess whether we would have enough staff on site to safely manage the school if all pupils arrived as normal. When it became evident that we would not, we made the decision to delay opening in order to ensure the safety of all pupils and staff.

Please be reassured that, in situations like this, if your child is already on their way to school, there will always be staff on site to supervise them safely. If this happens, we will make direct contact with you.

For whole school urgent messages of this scale, Arbor is our official communication channel. We may also post supplementary reminders or updates on Class Dojo (for primary) and our social media platforms, but Arbor will always be the primary source of information for operational decisions.

I hope that everyone has stayed safe today. We have experienced some localised flooding on site, but our site team has been outstanding throughout the day, and we fully expect school to be open as normal tomorrow.

Yours sincerely

Phil Arnold
Headteacher