



**Houghton Conquest  
Lower School**  
Growing together

## Houghton Conquest Lower School

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**Headteacher**  
Miss J Heaslip

Value of the Month: Resilience

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18<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents

### **What happens when there is a School or Pre-School Closure due to extreme bad weather / emergency School's Open Status (SOS)**

Central Bedfordshire Council has a 'School's Open Status' portal, known as SOS. If there is a potential forecast of extreme weather or snow to come, you would be able to see if our school is open or closed if you have pre-registered. With winter approaching:-

- We would like to advise all parents who have not already done so to sign up to the system to receive alerts (*see below*).
- If you have already registered please take a moment to familiarise yourself on how the system works and check that your details are still correct.

Parents should visit: <https://apps.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/webApps/SOS/cbc.aspx>. Here you will find a list of all schools in Central Bedfordshire together with their current opening status and a comprehensive user guide to help you with the registration process. We would like to promote this system to parents as we feel this is the best way to communicate school closures to everyone.

This system allows us, the school, to login to automatically update the opening status of our school wherever we are. All parents that have signed up to the system will receive an immediate email alert to let them know the status of our school has changed. The radio stations will also receive email alerts and be able to monitor the website.

This will not replace our Text Alert system (Groupcall) - it is additional to. Although we feel our text system works extremely well this allows us to make sure everyone is informed of the School and Pre-School status should there be an emergency.

Please ensure you update the school and the SOS system should your contact details change.

Kind Regards

Mrs A Allen  
School Business Manager

