

Headteacher: Mrs C Fielding

Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School  
Eastholme Drive, Rawcliffe,  
York YO30 5TA  
T: 01904 806530  
E: admin@cwr.pmat.academy  
W: www.cwr.york.sch.uk

Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School is part of  
Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust, an exempt  
charity registered in England and Wales.  
Company Number: 07559610.  
Registered Office: Archbishop Holgate's  
School, Hull Road, York YO10 5ZA

18 January 2023

### Advice from Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

I am sure that you will be aware of the tragic incident at Babbs Mill Lake in Solihull in December 2022, where four young boys died after falling through the ice. The incident is a stark reminder to us all of the dangers of open water, especially during the winter months. Frozen lakes, ponds, canals and reservoirs can look picturesque, but they can be lethal .

As we continue to experience cold weather, we would ask parents and carers to remind their children of the dangers and advise why they must keep off it. Please help us to avoid this from happening again. This message will be reinforced at school today.

Please see the following information obtained from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

**Advice from RoSPA -** We advise people to take care around the edges of lakes and rivers because snow can obscure them, and we recommend that dogs are kept on a lead so they do not run out on to the ice. Also, avoid throwing sticks or balls on to the ice for dogs to retrieve. Although frozen water can look tempting, there's simply no way of knowing whether the ice will hold your weight and it's often too late by the time you find out that it won't. We encourage parents to talk to their children about the hazards of frozen water and what to do if they see someone fall through the ice. If someone falls through the ice:

- Call the emergency services
- Do not attempt to go out on to the ice yourself
- Tell the person to stay still to maintain heat and energy
- Try finding something which will extend your reach, such as a rope, pole or branch
- Throw the object out and, once ensuring you are stable on the bank either by lying down or having someone hold on to you, pull them in. If you cannot find something to reach with, try finding an object that will float and push that out to them
- Ensure that you keep off the ice at all times during the rescue, continue to reassure the casualty and keep them talking until help arrives
- Once the person has been rescued, keep them warm and take them to hospital even if they appear to be unaffected.

Thank you for your cooperation with this serious matter.

Best Wishes

Claire Fielding

Headteacher

