



# PRIESTLEY SMITH SPECIALIST SCHOOL

(For Blind and Partially Sighted Students)

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I have been asked to circulate the following by Birmingham City Council.

## Winter Water Safety – Important Message

Following the tragic incident at Babbs Mill Lake, Solihull, schools are encouraged to read and share the important information issued by West Midland Fire Service: [www.wmfs.net/safety/winter-water-safety/](http://www.wmfs.net/safety/winter-water-safety/)

Learning about the risks of ice are so important, especially during winter to try and prevent such tragic incidents. The Royal Life Saving Society UK has also produced some helpful guidance on keeping children and families safe around water when the weather turns chilly and new dangers appear. Ideal for younger children, their FREE downloadable Winter Safety Activity Booklet and Colouring In Sheet encourages children to talk about winter water safety : [www.rlss.org.uk/winter-water-safety](http://www.rlss.org.uk/winter-water-safety)

## Further safety advice from BCC

Please keep yourselves and your loved ones safe around open water, especially during the forecasted freezing weather over the festive period. Temperatures are expected to remain low over the coming days and we would urge people to be very careful when walking or cycling near waterways.

Do not go onto the ice even if it looks safe as it can weaken very easily. If you see anyone in trouble, please call 999 immediately.

Please keep safe over the holidays and we look forward to children returning on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Best wishes

Joanna Garvey  
Headteacher  
Priestley Smith Specialist School