








What's going on?

Scotland's first ever red snow warning came into force as severe weather causes major disruption across much of the UK for a third day this week. The Met Office alert means a risk to life is likely and urges people to "take action now" to keep safe. Amber warnings are also in place for other parts of Scotland, northern and eastern England and the East Midlands. Thousands of schools have been closed, and there is major disruption on roads, the rail network and at airports.

Question:

How do we respond to unpredictable weather?

Listen, think, share

-  Talk to the children about the extreme recent weather we have been having and talk about how it might have affected us in our local area. Why do we think the snow causes more disruption than any other type of weather? Talk about what it's like to walk on icy roads and what it's like to be in a car or bus that is struggling to drive in the ice and snow. Does anyone know the name the wintry weather spell has been given? 'The Beast from the East'. Talk about why we think it might have been given this name. Do we think it's a good name?
-  What have we found difficult about the recent weather? What have we enjoyed? Do we think that we were prepared for it? Have we been wearing warmer clothes, have we turned our heating up and have we been safe if we've had a chance to play in the snow? Thinking about wider services, what might others have done to prepare? E.g. the council gritting our roads and caretakers making sure paths around school are safe to walk on.
-  Look at the image from the poster, talk about certain places of work that aren't able to close. Services like hospitals and fires services for example. Do we think the postman in the picture will have enjoyed delivering post that day? How do you think he might have prepared himself to make his job as easy as possible? Can we think of other jobs where the weather might play a role in how we work?
-  Talk about if your school has been closed or imagine what it would have been like if it had been. What would the difficulties be for the people affected? E.g. parents who needed to go to work. Why do you think schools make the decision to close? Do you think it would be an easy decision to make for people in charge? Some people have said that schools should try harder to stay open, do you think this is fair?
-  Look at the photos from the resource. Talk about what is happening in each one and discuss how the people involved could have prepared for each situation. What advice might you give them?

Reflection

The weather can make us realise that there are many things in our lives that we are unable to control. We can use these opportunities to learn important lessons, from making sure we don't take risks, responding quickly and safely to decisions beyond our control and learning to make the best out of situations we may not have been expecting!

The news story:
<http://bbc.in/2CqVndU>

Useful Video
Severe weather warning issued:
<https://ind.pn/2FE7tiO>