**Sample Winter Weather Letter to Families [Insert your logo, contact information and signature]**

Dear Families and Caregivers:

We love having your student at school! Their curiosity and joy bring life to our school community. Being at school every day helps students stay connected, confident and on track in their learning.

As we head into the winter months, we know snow, rain, and seasonal illnesses like colds, flu, fevers and earaches can sometimes make it harder to get to school.

While some absences are unavoidable, every missed day, including excused absences, interrupts the routine of learning and makes it harder for students to feel engaged and connected.

Here are some ways to keep your child healthy and in school this winter:

1. **Develop back up plans for getting your student to school.** If you can’t take them to school, see who else can give them a ride, or form a “walking school bus” to walk to school or the school bus stop with other families. (*Optional: Consider including the My Family’s Help Bank handout, found on the Attendance Works website, where families can jot down who can help*.)

2. **If your student gets sick** or you are not sure whether to keep them home or send them to school, talk to your child’s medical provider or the school nurse for advice.

3. **Look for signs of stress or anxiety.** If you feel that anxiety or stress is playing a role, talk to your student’s teacher, the school nurse or counselor, or your medical provider about how best to support your child.

4. **Promote healthy habits.** Encourage handwashing, good sleep, healthy meals, daily exercise and plenty of fluids.

5. **Prevent the spread of germs.** Remind children not to share cups or utensils with others.

6. **Dress your student for the cold weather.** If you need help with coats, hats, or gloves, please call the school. *(Insert name of school contact*)

7. **Stay connected if your student must be home.** If illness keeps your child out for more than a day or two, contact your child’s teacher for learning materials so they don’t fall behind.

***We know winter can be tough, but showing up matters***

***Let us know how we can help you. If you’re having trouble or need resources, please call us at [Insert phone number] and ask to speak with [Insert name].***

Thank you for partnering with us!

 Sincerely,

[*Insert name and title]*