

14th January 2025

Lockdown Drill

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today we practised 'Staying Safe Indoors'. This is the term we use with the children to describe a lockdown drill. We practise this at certain intervals as a necessary precaution in order that staff and children feel confident about the procedure that would be followed in the event of an emergency.

The Government requires all council sites including schools to consider the need for robust and tested lockdown procedures. Full Lockdown and Partial Lockdown procedures should be seen as a sensible and proportionate response to any external or internal incident which has the potential to pose a threat to the safety of staff, students, parents or visitors, such as:

- A reported incident, e.g. civil disturbance in the local community (with the potential to pose a risk to staff and pupils in the school)
- An intruder on the school site (with the potential to pose a risk to staff and pupils)
- A warning being received regarding a risk locally, of air pollution (smoke plume, gas cloud etc.)
- A major fire in the vicinity of the school
- The close proximity of a dangerous dog roaming loose or other dangerous animals.

On this occasion, the children were prepared by their teachers a few minutes in advance, so that they felt ready to act when needed. We do not pre-warn children or families too early, to avoid unnecessary over-thinking, unless in exceptional circumstances. On future occasions, the drill may not always be preceded with a warning, in order to provide opportunities for a more realistic response.

The drill was run on both sites. Senior leaders and premises managers always review the outcomes carefully afterwards and put any extra measures in to place before the next drill occurs. Levels of security on both sites do adhere to health and safety guidelines and are under continual review.

I have to say, every single child did themselves proud today and responded calmly and sensibly to the instructions given. There were no more than five minutes of disruption to the morning.

For more information, please refer to the lockdown policy on our website.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Emma Richardson
Headteacher