

**LETTER TO PARENTS AND CARERS - ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2020-2021 BUSH FIRE SEASON**

Dear parents/carers,

I am writing to let you know about arrangements for our school for the current bushfire season.

Our school has been identified as a school at increased risk if a bush fire were to break out on a day when a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating is issued for our area.

To ensure the health, safety and welfare of students and staff, the NSW Department of Education has determined that on days when a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating is issued for our area, **our school will temporarily cease operations for the day(s) the rating is current** and alternative learning arrangements will be put in place. This is based on information obtained through a bush fire assessment of our school arranged by the department.

A Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating is likely to occur on a very small number of days during the bush fire season, if at all. To ensure that we continue to support student learning on these days, I have put the following arrangements in place:

If safe to travel, students will attend Empire Public School and be taught by PBPS teachers in the space provided. A confirmation of this plan will be announced to parents ahead of time.

The school will only receive notification of a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating after school hours the day before the forecast is issued. To assist me in contacting all parents, **please ensure that you have provided the school with up-to-date home or after hours contact details**. Additionally, it is recommended that you have downloaded our school’s Skoolbag App and the Fires Near Me App from the App Store to stay informed of any changes to routines and of upcoming fire warnings.

Information for parents and carers provided by the department about these arrangements is attached. Up to date bush fire information will also be available to you on the department’s bush fire safety website. The link for this site is: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/inside-the-department/health-and-safety/emergency-planning-and-incident-response/emergency-management-procedures/bushfire-planning>

In preparation for the bushfire season, our school will be conducting our next evacuation (shelter in place) on Friday 30 October to hone our skills in the event of an emergency.

Please contact the school on 43 601 012 if you would like any further information about this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Wardlaw

Principal