



Friday 20 October 2023

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE UPCOMING BUSHFIRE SEASON

Dear parent/carer,

I am writing to advise you of bushfire emergency arrangements for our school this bushfire season.

Our school is in a bushfire prone area and is listed as Category 2 on the NSW Department of Education's bushfire risk register.

To ensure the health, safety and welfare of students and staff, the department has determined that on days when NSW Rural Fire Service declares a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating for the Far North Coast, our school will temporarily cease operations for the following day.

In addition, schools may be made non-operational due to changing higher risk conditions and advice from emergency services and the State Emergency Operations Centre.

We recommend that you download the **Parent App** and select to monitor advice from our school which will push notifications to you advising that the school is non-operational. We also recommend that you stay up to date with bushfire and grassfire activity by using the **Hazards Near Me** app (set a watch zone for your school area), and by monitoring local media. You can also review fire activity and alert levels on the **RFS** website.

The Fire Danger Rating does not mean there will be a bushfire, but rather weather conditions that could pose a high risk for a bushfire event. The measure is proactive to ensure staff, students and the community remain safe.

In a more urgent matter, where we have been evacuated from the school, the following arrangements have been made to maintain safety:

- **Evacuation** – If we are evacuated, we will first assemble in our 'Shelter in Place' building. We will then travel by bus to Lismore Public School. Families will be contacted via text message with an estimated timeframe of when we will leave. If you or a family member can pick up your child/ren before we leave the school, you will be encouraged to do so. Otherwise, you will need to pick up your child from Lismore Public School as the school buses we use will not pick up students from there. This school has been chosen as it is the closest school with less risk than ours – a category 3 school.
- **Shelter in place** – If it is not safe to evacuate, we will remain in one building in the school which is our 'Shelter in Place' building. That building is the meeting room, next to the principal's office. This building has been chosen as it has a toilet, running water, air conditioning, and sufficient space for all staff and students. Parents will be notified of this via text message. It may not be safe to pick up your child at this point, but we, guided by emergency services, will give you that information via text message.

In an emergency, we will communicate via text message.

Our school will inform our school community after 4pm if there is a change to the operational status of the school for the following day. To assist the school in contacting all families please ensure that you have provided us with up-to-date contact details.

We recommend that all of our families follow the advice of the NSW Rural Fire Service and ensure that your family knows what to do if there is a fire. It can take as little as five minutes to make your plan. Discuss it with your family so you know what you will do in the event of a fire. **www.myfireplan.com.au**

Please contact the school on 6629 3263 if you would like any further information about this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Mitchell Stokes
Relieving Principal