



Reaching for the Stars!
Canterbury Road, Davyhulme, Manchester, M41 0RX
Tel 0161 748 3392

27th April 2018

Dear Parents , Carers and Guardians ,

As part of our general safeguarding policies and procedures we regularly practice associated drills as follows :

Fire Drills with evacuation to the Fire Assembly point on the school field.

Critical Incident Whole Site Evacuation from school to Davyhulme Park via the Fire Assembly point on the school field and rear access point through the double gates to Davyhulme Park.

The latest policy is a **Lockdown** policy (see full copy on the website) and we have been doing practices in recent weeks to cover a variety of scenarios. Drills have been taking place at different times , on different days so that part time staff will have experienced one of our practices.

Class teachers have used a variety of ' age - appropriate' explanations for the Lockdown Drill ranging from ' we are using our special den to play hide and seek from Mr McDowell ' to we have to guard against the possibility of a chemical cloud heading our way ' . None of the children have displayed any signs of distress or anxiety during any of our drills (although younger children with more sensitive hearing have complained about the sound of the fire alarm).

I will be making a full report to the governors at our next meeting but I have to say that I have been really impressed with the behaviour of your children and their conduct during these recent drills. We have one more surprise drill to do before the end of the academic year and I have full confidence that the children will continue to maintain their disciplined approach.

Our usual practice is to try and do one **Fire Drill** per term and one **Critical Incident Whole Site Evacuation** once per year. We will now try to practice either a **Full Lockdown** or **Partial Lockdown** per term. Please note that if you will not be able to gain entry to school during the **Lockdown** drills and there will be a note on each of the main entrances to inform you of this and to ask for your patience.

The staff and myself are not expecting any emergency situation in the near future but it is always better to prepare for what might happen. No drill or amount of practising can cover every eventuality but at least we can say that we have taken reasonable steps to protect and keep safe our most valuable assets... your children.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P McDowell