



Bapchild & Tonge CE (Aided) Primary School and Nursery

Headteacher: Mr C Kelly

School Lane
Bapchild
Kent ME9 9NL

email: office@bapchild.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01795 424143

Friday 3rd February 2023

Dear Parent and Carers,

At Bapchild and Tonge CE (Aided) Primary School and Nursery, we take safeguarding and safety very seriously. It is important that we continue to review all our procedures, taking into account even those events that are very unlikely to occur. As part of this process, we practiced our 'Tiger Alarm' procedure today, which adults may know as "lockdown".

What is a 'Tiger Alarm' (lockdown) and when would we carry it out?

To the children we call it the 'Tiger Alarm' so they are not frightened or worried. The procedure is a standard health and safety procedure, similar to a fire drill.

Our 'Tiger Alarm' (lockdown) procedure would be used when there is a threat to the safety of pupils, staff and others in the school, and when it is safer for everyone to remain in school than evacuate. The aim is to keep people safe by confining them to a secure place of safety.

Situations where our lockdown procedure may be used include:

- A potentially dangerous person or animal on the school site
- A disturbance or dangerous situation in the local community that could affect the school
- A nearby chemical incident or other risk of air pollution
- An incident related to terrorism

Our procedure

Our lockdown procedure is for all the children/staff to remain in their classroom or the room they are in. We will signal the alarm with a bell. Staff will ensure doors and windows are shut, close blinds and instruct children to be 'sleeping tigers'. The children and adults will remain quiet and calm until the bell is rung again to signal the 'tiger alarm' is over.

Instructions for parents in the event of a real 'Tiger Alarm' (lockdown)

In the event of a 'Tiger Alarm' we will:

- Inform you via text that the school is in lockdown
- You (parents/carers) should not attempt to call or come to the school, as this may hinder the school's effort to contact and work with the emergency services
- You (parents/carers) should not discuss the event on social media, as this may spread false information and create panic

- If the lockdown continues beyond school hours we will take advice from the emergency services and then inform you via text about collection.

Today we talked about the 'Tiger Alarm' in Worship. The children were very sensible and had great suggestions. Prior to drills, staff will take time to talk to pupils about the 'Tiger Alarm' (lockdown) procedures and explain why they are important. They will reassure pupils after the drill that they are safe, and will emphasise that practicing procedures like this will make sure the school remains a safe place to learn.

I must stress again this was today simply a practice, so that in the unlikely event of such a situation, our pupils and staff are fully prepared.

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

C Kelly

Mr C Kelly

Head Teacher