

## School Procedures for the Bushfire Season 2019/20



Fire Danger Ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life. A small number of schools on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR), including our own, will be closed on **all CODE RED and EXTREME** Fire Danger Rating days. Once we are advised of a **CODE RED or an EXTREME** Fire Danger Rating day, we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. It is important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast **CODE RED or EXTREME** Fire Danger Rating day.
- **Outside School-Hours Care (OSHC) will also be cancelled on these days**
- School camps may be cancelled if a forecast **CODE RED and EXTREME** Fire Danger Rating day is made by Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located. Our school will notify you if the camp or excursion is cancelled.

On high fire danger rating days such as these, families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home alone or unsupervised or in the care of older children.** As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan.

### **What can parents do?**

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. You will receive SMS messages if the school is to be closed the next day.
- Keep informed about our bushfire procedures by reading our newsletters and Flexibuzz messages, and by checking our website at <http://kallistaps.vic.edu.au/> You can also talk to the principal or your child's teacher about our emergency management plan.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed on Code Red days- when our relocation school is not available.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.
- You can access more information about children's services closures on the Department of Education and Training website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

For up-to-date information on this year's fire season, visit the VicEmergency website at [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au) or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

**PLEASE TURN OVER FOR CLOSURE INFORMATION**

# School Fire Safety Management

*Please remember that Kallista Primary is CLOSED on*

***CODE RED DAYS and on EXTREME DAYS!***

When there is a **Code Red Day and on an Extreme Day**, our school will be closed to **everyone**.

This includes staff, students, visitors and parents.

**All school community members will be notified by SMS the day before, to confirm closure.**

When closure is confirmed, it will not be altered regardless of changes in weather conditions that may occur. When the school is closed, no one will be on site. *This includes before and after school care.*

You must ensure you have given the school your current mobile and telephone contacts so that we can notify you of closure. This is a parental responsibility. We do not want children dropped at the school when it is closed.

We will also put up signs outside the school, informing that the school is closed.

## **EXTREME DAY RELOCATION OPTION**

When the school is closed on an **Extreme Day**, the Department of Education has provided a relocation of school option that families *may* like to use.

Our relocation school is Fairhills Primary School, Manuka Drive, Ferntree Gully. It is **not compulsory** to use the relocation school, and families may choose to make other arrangements for the care of children, in line with their fire plan.

Parents must be able to drop off and pick up their children. Transport to and from the relocation, school is not provided. I will be sending more details home soon about our relocation option.

*Please note: On **CODE RED DAYS** there is **NO** relocation option and families will need to make alternate arrangements for the care of children.*

*Please contact the principal- Christine Finighan- on 97552633, should you have any concerns or require more information.*