

26 November 2012

Dear Parents / Caregivers

The Middle Team will be working on a *Get Firewise* unit over the next couple of weeks and your child will be learning some fire-safe behaviours. They will practise what to do to get out FAST if there is a fire in a building they are in.

Each year the New Zealand Fire Service attends about 5,000 house fires. Around a quarter of house fires start in the kitchen from unattended cooking. Once a fire has started in a room, people have three minutes to get of the room before they breathe in poisonous smoke and die.

There are three things you can do to get out quickly and safely if a fire occurs in your home.

1. Install working smoke alarms in lounges and family living areas, halls and bedrooms to alert you to the fire. If you are asleep, you cannot smell smoke.
2. Have an escape plan so that every family member know two ways to get out of every room and know where to go to a safe meeting place.
3. Practise getting our of every room FAST when the smoke alarm goes off or it someone shouts, “fire, fire, fire.”

During this *Get Fire Wise* unit, your child will bring home your copy of a *Get Firewise Family Book / DVD.* We encourage you to read the story with your child or children, watch the DVD and involve all your family or whanau in making your home fire safe. We also encourage you to practise what to do if a fire starts anywhere in your house.

The *Get Fire Wise Book / DVD*  has some simple homework tasks your child or children will be asked to complete as we do the unit. This will replace our regular homework tasks.

There may be some families in our community who have had an experience of fire. We want to make sure every child can participate positively in this learning programme so please contact your child’s teacher if there are any concerns about your child that we should be made aware of. We will also be teaching your child to call 111 and ask for emergency services during this unit. If you do not want your child to give details of your address, please also advise your child’s teacher.

Kind regards

Robyn, Rachel, Elizabeth, Carmel, Shannon and Dan