

King Edwin Primary School



Head Teacher Mr Callaghan-Wetton
Fourth Avenue, Edwinstowe, Notts, NG21 9NS
Tel: (01623) 822111 Fax: (01623) 825707
E Mail: office@kingedwin.notts.sch.uk
Website: www.kingedwin.notts.sch.uk

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A Note regarding today's successful safety/emergency procedure rehearsals

Dear King Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you with a positive update regarding our school safety procedures. This morning, we successfully carried out two very important rehearsals: a **practice lockdown procedure** and termly **fire alarm evacuation drill**.

The children deserve immense praise for their maturity and focus during both activities. As you know, ensuring your child's safety is always our top priority, and these rehearsals are a vital part of preparing them for various emergency situations, as all schools are required to do.

Outstanding Student Response

Our KingEdwinner children were absolutely **fantastic** during both procedures. During the fire drill, our entire school (all 470 children) executed the evacuation procedure and assembled safely in just over **three minutes**. Similarly, the practice lockdown this morning was carried out incredibly well. The children did a brilliant job of finding safe hiding places under tables, remaining silent, and ensuring they were not visible. Their understanding of the seriousness of the situation, even in a practice setting, was exceptional.

I have to say that the very youngest children in school did particularly well and managed today's exercises brilliantly. Don't be surprised though if this provokes a few 'hide and seek' requests at home after this morning's experiences!

Before we carried out the drill this morning, all children were prepped in a sensitive, age-appropriate manner by their class teachers. The exercises today enabled them to hear and **distinguish between the two different alarm tones** and understand the specific procedures required for each.

Why We Practice Without Prior Notice

You may wonder why we don't let families know beforehand about the exact timing of such drills. We feel it is not good practice to ask parents to engage before such rehearsals as messages can sometimes be misinterpreted or confused, which might undermine the effectiveness and realism of the practice for the children. When they react spontaneously, we get the most accurate measure of our response systems.

This being said, following up on safety management at home is incredibly valuable. I strongly encourage families to use today's practices as a positive talking point. Having simple family discussions about **what to do in the event of a fire alarm in your family home**, or planning other home safety measures, can really help reinforce the importance of these essential lessons outside of the school gate.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership and support. We are incredibly proud of the KingEdwinner children today.

Kind regards,

Andy Callaghan-Wetton – Headteacher King Edwin Primary School

