Bushfire Preparedness Letter

St Patrick’s Primary School Stawell publishes a letter to all parents relating to Bushfire preparedness and the Emergency Management Plan which will be invoked if a fire causes a threat to the College or to the students on their way to or from the School.

BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION

As we enter the bushfire season for another year it is important that the guidelines regarding school arrangements for CODE RED days, Total Fire Ban days and bushfire alerts are clearly articulated to all parents. These are as follows:

1. **No** school buses will run on any days that are declared CODE RED to St Patrick’s Primary School Stawell. This includes the Halls Gap, Marnoo East and West, Dadswell Bridge/Roses Gap, Pomonal, Glenorchy, Great Western, Greens Creek/Joel Joel Concongella/ Landsborough, Navarre routes. All of these buses run through areas that are on the **At Risk Register,** and as such, are unable to transport students on CODE RED days because of the high potential of bush fires.
2. On CODE RED days, parents are asked to ensure students who are remaining at home because their bus is not running are **never** left at home unattended or in the care of older children.
3. **St Patrick’s Primary School Stawell has not been identified as being at high fire risk**, and as such it will remain **OPEN** on a CODE RED day unless it is directly threatened by fire.
4. If a fire starts during the day that affects a bus route home, the College will be notified by the Bus Coordinators at Stawell College. It may be possible that students are not permitted to travel home on the bus in such a situation. Parents will be notified if this occurs, and students will be cared for at school until transportation home can be arranged.
5. While our school has not been identified as being at high fire risk, we do plan offsite activities – such as camps and field trips – during the fire season. If such activities are considered to be at risk from fire, or occur on a Total Fire Ban day-they will be rescheduled or cancelled.
6. If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family’s bushfire survival plan – particularly if you are planning day trips or holidays to fire-prone areas.

Please feel free to contact the school if you require further advice or information.