

Portsmouth Primary School and Early Years
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Headteacher: Mr A Vaghela

16th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. At Portsmouth, the safety and well-being of your children are always our top priority. With this in mind, I wanted to inform you that on **Thursday 19th September**, we will be holding a quick **lockdown practice** at school.

As you may know, our school is located near a hospital, fire services and a police station, which means there is a slightly higher possibility of incidents occurring in the vicinity. While the likelihood of an actual emergency is extremely low, it is important that we are fully prepared for any situation, just as we regularly practise fire drills. A lockdown practice allows us to ensure that all staff and children know what to do if we ever need to secure the building for their safety.

Please be assured that we will explain the practice to the children in an **age-appropriate** and reassuring way, so they understand that it is simply a drill, similar to how we treat fire drills. We do not want the children to feel anxious, but rather confident in the knowledge that we are taking steps to keep them safe.

This practice will be for the main school only, not the Nursery, as children may find it difficult to understand the reasons for the practice and could become frightened or confused. For younger children, the focus is often on simpler and more immediate safety practices rather than drills that might be more suited to older students.

If you have any questions or concerns about the lockdown practice, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. We are committed to ensuring that this is handled in a calm and supportive manner for all.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Warm regards,

Mr Vaghela, Headteacher