



Wednesday 2 March 2016

Hi the TAPS Family – This is an urgent safety message,

As you might be aware, there have been a number of threats (Bomb Threats) sent to schools over the past few days. The threats received to date are being investigated by the NZ Police. It is their position that these threats have been generated off shore.

The Board of Trustees and myself would like to assure you that TAPS has not received any threats. The safety of students and staff is paramount, and we are seeking guidance from the Ministry of Education and NZ Police. We have taken appropriate action to ensure that all children are familiar with the school emergency plans and procedures, and have specific responses detailed for different events. We have not told the children about these threats, but we are taking the learning moments to prepare ourselves for any situation.

The different events that we will be rehearsing today and throughout the next few weeks, will be:

- Fire
- Earthquake
- Lockdown (including the Bomb Threat)

All these events have slightly different responses and as a school we are ready for all natural disasters and threats placed on the school. All teachers and office staff are able to go through our safety procedures with you. Also visit the school web site to read the Lockdown procedures and other safety policies.

Finally, the Ministry of Education is currently represented at the NZ Police National Command and Coordination Centre to ensure a proactive and coordinated response can be undertaken in the event of more threats to schools.

Before school safety:

All children are able to access their classroom at TAPS from 8:30am. If children are at school earlier than 8:30am they are to wait quietly on the deck outside rooms 5 and 6. This area is **not supervised** by teachers before 8:30am as they are preparing for their instructional teaching day. Please do not drop your child at school before this time thinking that we have teachers watching them. Before School Care (Oscar and WINZ approved and financially supported programme) is available to all TAPS families and opens for breakfast and monitoring of the children from the hall everyday at 7:30am. Children attending MUST be enrolled, please see the office for enrolment forms if you would like to access this programme.

If you have a concern or complaint that you would like to have addressed, please visit our web site and follow the TAPS procedures: <http://www.taps.school.nz>

Regards

Gareth Duncan
Principal

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“...your education station”